NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

Testimony in **support** of SB1
Relating to Equal Rights

Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

October 28, 2013
10:30 am Auditorium

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee:

Thank you very much for scheduling this bill for a public hearing on this important issue. I would particularly like to acknowledge Chair Hee for the tremendous time, effort, and passion that he has put forward to bring marriage equity to the State of Hawaii.

In June of this year, the United States Supreme Court ruled that a portion of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unlawfully discriminated against married same-sex couples by prohibiting the federal government from recognizing those marriages and by denying federal benefits and protections to those couples.

In light of the Supreme Court ruling, commencing October 1, 2013, federal agencies including the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Pentagon, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Department of Labor now recognize and extend federal benefits to married same-sex couples equal to the benefits that are offered to opposite-sex couples. I therefore asked for this special session to allow same-sex couples the opportunity to be afforded the same federal and state benefits and protections in the State of Hawaii as soon as possible.

Since I called for this special session on September 9th, the subject of this bill has generated continued discussion in our community about religious freedom. It is not the intent of the bill to force a member of the clergy to perform a wedding ceremony that goes against his or her religious beliefs. Similarly, it is not the intent of the bill to penalize a religious organization whose facilities are used for wedding ceremonies for their members and followers of their faith. I believe that the bill you are now considering is consistent with those ideals and is respectful of every individual's religious and personal beliefs.

While there are certainly a number of views on the issue of marriage, moving toward a path of equality is always the right thing to do.

I will defer to the State Attorney General, Hawaii Department of Health, and Hawaii Civil Rights Commission regarding legal issues, implementation issues, and details relating to public accommodations.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this very important issue.

TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE,
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION 2013

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
S.B. NO. 1, RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013 **TIME:** 10:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Auditorium

TESTIFIER(S): David M. Louie, Attorney General

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

This bill will allow marriage between two individuals without regard to gender within the State of Hawaii. The Department of the Attorney General strongly supports this important measure and urges the Legislature to pass it. To assist this Committee, this testimony is submitted to summarize the important legal implications of the bill and how the bill's provisions relate to existing law. In the Department's view, no amendments are necessary for the bill to accomplish the bills stated intent and purpose.

New Statutory Sections. Section 2 of the bill would add six new sections to the marriage statutes in, chapter 572, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

New section 572-A[1] provides that couples who are presently in a civil union or a reciprocal beneficiary relationship are permitted to seek licenses to marry each other without terminating the civil union or reciprocal beneficiary relationship first. The solemnization of their marriage to each other would automatically terminate their civil union or reciprocal beneficiary relationship. There would be no gap in the legal protections of either status. This section also provides that any rights held by couples who transition from either a reciprocal beneficiary relationship or a civil union to a marriage are deemed to have begun with the earlier legal status. This provision is very similar to section 572B-4.5, HRS, which was enacted as part of Act 267, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, amending the civil unions law.

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[1] The letter designation would be replaced by section numbers by the revisor of statutes if the bill becomes law.

New section 572-B provides that any gender-specific terms, such as "husband" or "wife," will be interpreted in a gender-neutral manner, when necessary to implement the rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses under Hawaii law.

New section 572-C provides that parentage rights based on marriage shall be the same for all married persons regardless of the gender of the spouses. These rights include paternity, maternity, and parentage presumptions based on marriage.

New section 572-D provides that where state law relies on federal law defining marriage, same-sex spouses shall be treated for purposes of state law as if federal law treated them in the same manner as any other spouses. Before the United States Supreme Court's decision in United States v. Windsor, 133 S. Ct. 2675 (2013), the federal government did not recognize marriages between two individuals of the same sex. After Windsor, the federal government does recognize those marriages. Several federal agencies have determined that same-sex couples legally married in jurisdictions that recognize their marriages will be treated as married for purposes of federal benefits wherever they reside.[2] The implementation has been slower in some federal agencies than others. For that reason, this provision ensures that any cross-reference to federal law in Hawaii's laws does not deny same-sex spouses any right or privilege of marriage under State law.

New section 572-E provides that any clergy, minister, priest, or rabbi may refuse to solemnize any marriage, for any reason. In Hawaii, pursuant to section 572-12, HRS, all licensed solemnizers, except for state court judges, are members of the clergy and will be protected under this provision. Any person who refuses to solemnize any marriage under this section shall not be subject to any fine, penalty, injunction, administrative proceeding, or other civil liability. This provision recognizes and supports the constitutional right to free exercise of religion.

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[2] See, e.g., Rev. Rul. 2013-17, 2013-38 I.R.B. 201 (U.S. Internal Revenue Service ruling that same-sex couples, legally married in jurisdictions that recognize their marriage, will be treated as married for federal tax purposes); U.S. Department of Labor Technical Release 2013-04, at 1 (Sept. 18, 2013) (recognizing "marriages to include same-sex marriages that are legally recognized as marriages under any state law"); Memorandum for Secretaries of the Military Departments Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, dated August 13, 2013 (extending benefits to same-sex spouses of military members).

New section 572-F provides that notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, religious organizations are not subject to any fine, penalty, injunction, administrative proceeding or civil liability for refusing to make its facilities or grounds available "for the solemnization of any marriage celebration," provided that the religious organization does not make its facilities or grounds available to the general public for a profit. As we read it, this provision is primarily aimed at protecting the religious organizations that are not in the business of performing weddings.

Amendments to Existing Sections. The bill would amend seven existing sections of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. Five of the amendments that address important legal points are discussed below:

Section 3 of the bill amends section 572-1, HRS. These amendments (1) remove the one-man-one-woman restriction, (2) expressly permit two individuals to marry without regard to gender, (3) make the prohibition on marrying close relatives gender neutral, and (4) provide that neither party to a marriage has a husband, wife, or civil union partner living, except as provided in new section 572-A (which allows current civil union partners or reciprocal beneficiaries to marry each other).

Section 4 of the bill amends section 572-3, HRS. This section governs the recognition of marriages performed elsewhere. This amendment clarifies that the State of Hawaii intends to recognize all marriages between two individuals of the same sex that are legal in the jurisdiction where they were entered. This would include marriages entered into in other States.

Section 7 of the bill amends section 572B-4, HRS, the refusal-to-solemnize provision from the civil unions law. This amendment removes the cross-reference to chapter 572 in this section and clarifies that the refusal-to-solemnize provision added by the bill for chapter 572 (new section 572-E, above) governs for marriages.

Section 8 of the bill amends section 572C-2, HRS. This section reflects the findings made when the reciprocal beneficiary law, Act 383, Session Laws of Hawaii 1997, was enacted, which provided that the 1997 Legislature's decision at that time was to limit marriage to between one man and one woman. In 1998, the people of Hawaii chose to amend the Hawaii Constitution to add section 23 to article I. This constitutional amendment expressly vested the authority to

legislate matters related to marriage in the Legislature. Therefore, the amendment to section 572C-2 removes statements that would be inconsistent with the intent and purpose of the bill.

Section 9 amends section 580-1, HRS. This provision governs the jurisdiction of the family courts over actions for annulment, divorce, and separation. The addition of subsection (b) provides that the Hawaii family courts will exercise jurisdiction over an action for annulment, divorce, or separation if neither party to the marriage resides in a jurisdiction that recognizes the marriage. This applies only to couples who were married under chapter 572 in this State. This situation may arise when same-sex couples travel to Hawaii to be married, but reside in a State that does not recognize their marriage.

Uncodified Session Law Added by the Bill. The bill would enact uncodified sections of session law to aid in the bill's implementation. By bill section number, these sections are as follows:

Section 10 enacts an uncodified session law. This provision states that any existing reciprocal beneficiary relationship or civil union entered into before the Act's effective date remains valid until terminated in accordance with applicable law. Under section 572C-4, HRS, only those couples who are prohibited from marrying can enter a reciprocal beneficiary relationship. If this bill becomes law, same-sex couples who are otherwise not prohibited from marrying (for example, due to family relationship) would not be allowed to enter reciprocal beneficiary relationships. This provision clarifies that existing reciprocal beneficiary relationships would be unaffected. For purposes of clarity and consistency, the same explicit protection is stated for existing civil unions.

Sections 11 enacts uncodified session law. This provision allows the Department of Health to make changes to internal procedures and forms to aid in the implementation of this Act.

Section 15. Under section 15, the bill, if enacted, would take effect on November 18, 2013.

We respectfully ask the Committee to pass this bill.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

October 28, 2013

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS.

Department's Position: COMMENTS.

Fiscal Implications: None.

Purpose and Justification:

The purpose of Senate Bill 1 is to recognize marriages between individuals of the same sex, and extend to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

The Department of Health is responsible for the administration and record keeping of Hawaii's public health statistics, which includes the licensing and certification of marriages and civil unions officiated in the State.

Enacted as currently drafted, DOH's in-person and online systems are prepared to accept applications <u>within a minimum of two weeks from the date of enactment</u>, provided that the Effective Date falls on a working Monday. However, any substantive amendments to this bill regarding licensure and

certification are likely to negatively impact system configuration, as well as quality assurance and end-user testing which may diminish DOH's confidence in a smooth transition.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

SHAN TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR

FREDERICK D. PABLO
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

JOSHUA WISCH
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1530
FAX NO: (808) 587-1584

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Date: Monday, October 28, 2013
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Place: Auditorium, State Capitol

From: Frederick D. Pablo, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: S.B. No. 1 Relating to Equal Rights

This measure adds new sections to Chapter 572 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to recognize marriages between individuals of the same sex and to extend to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive. The measure is effective on November 18, 2013.

The Department of Taxation (Department) supports this measure. Taxpayers must be legally married in order to obtain federal tax benefits such as the ability to file a joint income tax return. All couples, including same-sex couples, must be legally married to obtain other federal benefits such as health care, housing, family separation allowance, and veteran's benefits.

Prior to the United States Supreme Court decision in United States v. Windsor, 133 S. Ct. 2675 (2013), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) was prohibited from recognizing as valid, same sex marriages for tax purposes under the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), (Pub.L. 104–199, 110 Stat. 2419 enacted September 21, 1996). In Windsor, the United States Supreme Court ruled Section 3 of DOMA to be unconstitutional, declaring it "a deprivation of the liberty of the person protected by the Fifth Amendment."

Consequently, the IRS announced that same sex couples that were married in a jurisdiction where such marriage is legal would be afforded the same rights and duties for federal tax purposes as any other married couple. This, however, does not apply to civil unions or domestic partnerships, as they are not marriages under applicable law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
S. B. 1, Relating to Equal Rights
October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Chairman Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, aloha.

My name is Linda Schatz and I am here today to represent the Schatz family -- Brian and I -- in support of the S. B. 1, recognizing marriage for same sex couples.

Although Brian, as a United States Senator, respects the jurisdiction of the State Legislature, we decided as a family that we should be here today speaking on behalf of this measure. We support legislation that recognizes marriage for same-sex couples and applies provisions of law equally to all couples committing to a life partnership through marriage.

I am honored to be the family spokesperson today because the action you are considering is a bright moment for our State and an affirmative unfolding of history. We must remove long-standing barriers and as we offer the same rights and responsibilities to all couples wishing to make a full and complete life together.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and I humbly ask for your support of this measure.

CONGRESSWOMAN COLLEEN HANABUSA
FIRST DISTRICT
HAWAII

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in support of SB1, Hawaii's same-sex marriage law.

When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *United States v. Windsor* last summer, it changed our nation's conversation about marriage equality in very profound ways. In granting federal benefits to same sex couples who were legally married in states that allowed for those unions, the Court's decision was a great victory for many couples, but not all.

Today, same-sex couples in Hawaii do not have access to those federal rights afforded other couples across the country because our state does not recognize same-sex marriage. It is simply untenable that any Hawaii resident would be treated as a second-class citizen as a result of our state's refusal to acknowledge the legitimacy of their union. Now, the remedy for that is in your hands.

I would like to add, however, that I come to you today as more than an attorney and a legislator. I am also a proud part of the Hawaii community, and I count myself fortunate for having enjoyed the privileges of its openness and diversity. We as a state and a community can no longer call ourselves a place of Aloha if we continue to tell these committed, loving couples that they do not deserve the right to celebrate their unions. Marriage equality is about more than rights. It is about respect and acceptance.

Our state's history on the question of marriage equality has not been perfect, but we have the capacity to learn from our past. Like many Americans, including President Obama, my own views have evolved. I have always believed in equal rights for our LGBT brothers and sisters and pushed for civil unions while serving as President of the Hawaii State Senate, but I now appreciate that *nothing less than full marriage equality is enough*.

Progress grows from those who are willing to stand up and speak for themselves and others. Beginning today, the Hawaii State Legislature has an opportunity to rise to the situation, demonstrate your respect for the rights of *all* of our citizens, acknowledge the power of diversity in our community, and offer full marriage equality in Hawaii. I encourage you to vote in support of SB1. All citizens of Hawaii deserve the freedom to marry the ones they love.

Mahalo.

Colleen Hanabusa

From: Steven Levinson
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:23:06 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

In its 1993 decision in Baehr v. Lewin, the Hawaii Supreme Court held that the state's marriage law presumptively denied otherwise eligible same-sex couples the equal protection of the laws under the state constitution by withholding access on the part of such couples to the legal status of marriage. I authored the lead opinion. The Baehr appeal convinced me that what is now called Marriage Equality was not only compelled by the Hawaii Constitution, but was also the only fair course to pursue. I saw no rational basis for blackballing otherwise eligible loving and committed couples, simply on the basis of their sexual orientation, from following their hearts and receiving the legal and social recognition, approval, and respect that only the institution of marriage can confer.

In 1998, the Hawaii electorate ratified an amendment to the state constitution, proposed by this legislature, reserving to the legislature the power to determine marriage eligibility. It was the legislature's prerogative to do so.

SB1, if approved, would exercise the legislature's constitutional authority and prerogative to extend marriage eligibility to couples who could marry right now were it not for the fortuity of their gender. The time has come for the legislature to take that important step.

Marriage Equality is no longer a new idea. The list of Marriage Equality jurisdictions is growing inexorably and with accelerating speed. Marriage Equality is now recognized in California (2008,2013), Connecticut (2008), Delaware (2013), the District of Columbia (2010), Iowa (2009), Maine (2012), Maryland (2013), Massachusetts (2004), Minnesota (2013), New Hampshire (2010), New Jersey (2013), New Mexico (six counties, 2013), New York (2011), Rhode island (2013), Vermont (2009), and Washington (2012).

The Marriage Equality wave is washing onto shores on four continents and Oceania all around the world, having been formally adopted in the Netherlands (2001), Belgium (2003), Spain (2005), Canada (2005), South Africa (2006), Norway (2009), Sweden (2009), Portugal (2010), Iceland (2010), Argentina (2010), Denmark (2012), Brazil (2013), France (2013), Uruguay (2013), New Zealand (2013), and England and Wales (effective 2014).

I respectfully urge the legislature to adopt SB1. As presently drafted, SB1 would allow Hawaii to join the growing list of jurisdictions that have discharged a long-overdue debt to the LGBT community, while at the same time honoring and protecting First Amendment freedom of religious expression and belief.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Steven H, Levinson
Associate Justice (Retired)
Hawaii Supreme Court

Steven Levinson
3430-F Keahi Place
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Paul Groesbeck
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: SB ! Testimony
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:26:36 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Life Foundation
FIGHTING AIDS IN HAWAI'I AND THE PACIFIC

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

-

Presented by: Paul Groesbeck, Executive Director
(808) 853-3234 pgroesbeck@lifefoundation.org

SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol Auditorium

To Committee Chair Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair Maile Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:
Aloha. I am writing as executive director of Life Foundation, Hawaii's oldest and largest HIV/AIDS organization, to express our **STRONG SUPPOR**T of this bill, which will give same-sex couples in Hawaii the same right to marry that has been enjoyed for years by couples of opposite genders.

As someone who has been in the health field for many years, I know that, when people are singled out as "different" and treated as inferior, they begin to question their own self-worth, which can result in poor health and safety related decision making and, in too many cases, suicide.

As recently as 1967, it was a crime in more than one-third of the states for a white person to marry a person of another race. Thankfully, Hawaii was not one of those states. Vociferous moral arguments were made in favor of those anti-miscegenation laws by religious groups that felt they had the right to dictate their own prejudices to society in general. The Supreme Court finally sorted that out 46 years ago.

As a lawyer, I have read the proposed bill and, in my opinion, find that it adequately addresses the concerns of religious groups. They will be given the right to legally discriminate against anyone they want in the context of marriages performed within their traditional ministry. They will not be able to discriminate against anyone who seeks to be married in a church's for-profit marriage business. A simple distinction.

As someone who has been happily married for more than thirty years, I have never harbored any fears that legalizing same-sex marriages would negatively impact my marriage, my family, my community or the rotation of the planet.

Let's face it. This issue is being considered by the legislative body of the State of Hawaii. It is no longer a moral issue. It is not a religious issue. It is solely a legal issue that can be put right for

thousands of our fellow citizens within the next few days. When Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia recently so clumsily said that the 14th Amendment of the U. S. Constitution, "is not just for the blacks," he was right. The Constitution also protects the rest of us including, in this particular case – gay men and women.

Everyone should just take a deep breath and move on.

Planned Parenthood®
of Hawaii
1350 S. King Street • Suite 309 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814 • www.pphi.org • Phone: 808-589-1156 • Fax: 808-589-1404

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Auditorium, Hawaii State Capitol
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood of Hawaii in support of S.B.1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii writes in support of S.B.1, which seeks to recognize marriages between individuals of the same sex and extend to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii is dedicated to providing Hawaii's people with high quality, affordable and non-judgmental sexual and reproductive health care, education, and advocacy. We are proud to be a provider of health care, education and information for many in Hawaii's LGBT community.

We care deeply about the health of individuals, families and communities and we know that when people are truly cared for, their lives, their families, and their communities are better and healthier. Marriage equality *is* care and it will strengthen and enrich the lives of committed same-sex couples in Hawaii and provide stability for their families – to everyone's benefit.

Planned Parenthood of Hawaii was founded on principles of social justice. We support and respect the decisions of all people and families, regardless of their sexual orientation. We believe that individuals should be able to make their own choices about their health, their futures, their partners and who they marry. Until our LGBT patients and supporters enjoy the same rights as everyone else, we will continue to advocate for equal protection under the law.

Providing Hawaii with marriage equality is the right, just, and compassionate thing to do. It is time to join the 13 states and the District of Columbia that allow same-sex couples the freedom to marry the person they love. We respectfully call on you to pass S.B.1 and ensure marriage equality in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Andrea Anderson
CEO, Planned Parenthood of Hawaii

HONOLULU CLINIC
1350 S. King Street, Suite 310
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808-589-1149

KAUAI CLINIC
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KONA CLINIC
Hualalai Medical Center
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Kailua Kona, HI 96740
808-329-8211

MAUI CLINIC
Kahului Office Center
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Kahului, HI 96732
808-871-1176

Maui United Way

HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

Online Submittal
Hearing on: Monday, October 28, 2013
Capitol Auditorium

DATE: October 25, 2013
TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
From: Fr. Gary Secor, Vicar General, Diocese of Honolulu
Re: Strong Opposition SB 1 Relating to Equality (Redefining Marriage)

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I am Fr. Gary Secor, **representing the Hawaii Catholic Conference**. The Hawaii Catholic Conference, the public policy office of the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii under the current leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, has for many years come before this legislature to express its profound opposition to the legal recognition of same-sex civil unions and marriages within our state. The Conference's opposition to legal recognition of these forms of relationship is based not only on the religious teachings of the Catholic Church, but also out of the church's concern for the potentially negative sociological impact such relationships may eventually have on society.

The Catholic Church opposes the redefinition of marriage based on the clear understanding that the complementarity of man and woman is intrinsic to the meaning of marriage. The word marriage describes the exclusive and lifelong union of one man and one woman with the possibility, in many cases, of generating and nurturing children. Other unions exist, but they are not marriage.

In marriage, a husband and a wife make a public and reciprocal commitment, assuming duties to society, to themselves, and to their children. Society and the law reciprocate by bestowing on traditional marriage a privileged status that recognizes the essential role that families play in society. The family, based on marriage, is a natural institution that is prior to the state. As such, the reservation of marriage to the union of one man and one woman is a fact of nature, not a social prejudice.

The Church is also concerned that its religious freedom and conscience rights, both individually and collectively, continue to be protected. We fail to see how this bill takes these concerns adequately into account.

In recognition of the critical role marriage plays in the well-being of future generations and a stable society, the Church advocates for public policies that protect traditional marriage and promote the security of the family. Because of this, our diocese will continue to strongly advocate for the definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

6301 Pali Highway • Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224 • Ph: 808-203-6735 • Fax: 808-261-7022
E-mail: wyoshimitsu@rcchawaii.org | hcc@rcchawaii.org | www.catholichawaii.org

From: Jackie Young
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:47:13 AM

Dear Chair Hee and members of the committee:

Some of you may know me as a former representative and vice-speaker of the House from 1990-94. One of the reasons I left was because of the issue of same-sex marriage. In 1993 and 1994 there were fierce debates and public meetings on this issue.

A friend, Alison Adams, was dying of breast cancer at Queen's Hospital. Alison was a psychology professor at UH who was in her second year of law school. Her partner Beth Byerly would walk back and forth from the Capitol to Alison's hospital room so Alison could look over the latest draft of legislation we were crafting. Her consistent answer: "It's not fair." During a hearing at Mabel Symth Auditorium Alison sent someone to read her testimony. She died a few months later.

When the time came to vote for the legislation I couldn't be "loyal" to the leadership team and instead, voted my "conscience"—I voted for fairness and equality.

In 1998, I led the Protect Our Constitution Campaign arguing against a constitutional amendment that would violate our equal protection laws. We lost. We didn't realize at the time that it would be the beginning of a national movement to right a wrong.

A little of my history: I am of the generation that witnessed Pearl Harbor being attacked. I am of the generation that saw Japanese-Americans sent away to be interned during WW II. I am of the generation that lived in Wahiawa and saw Italian prisoners of war on farms outside of Wahiawa that are now Leilehua Golf Course. I attended Punahou School, which, until the 1960s had a 10% acceptance quota on Asians. This was a time when the Outrigger Club and the Pacific Club were off limits to Asians as was purchasing homes in affluent neighborhoods.

In 1954 I told my parents I wanted to marry Harry, my University of Hawaii College classmate. My parents cried, my grandparents cried, my aunts cried. Harry was not Korean (I'm "pure Korean"). In fact, he was not even Asian. Worse yet, he was "mixed" being of Hawaiian, Chinese, Portuguese, German and English background. On top of that he was from Maui.

We have four beautiful children. Two of them attended Kamehameha Schools, which was founded by a couple in a mixed marriage: Bernice Pauahi and Charles Reed Bishop.

In 1961 lived in Berlin, Germany with my husband who was the military police officer in charge of Checkpoint Charlie when the Berlin Wall went UP.

In 1962 we moved to Augusta, Georgia. We were checked out at the Georgia state line but because we had Hawaii state IDs my husband and I were called "Hawaiians" and were considered ok. Our Japanese American colleague—a captain—was taken to the police station with his blond wife. Their commander had to vouch for them. He later became a general.

In 1964, while still living in Georgia, we heard about a case that would change history. A mixed race couple, Mildred and Richard Loving, asked ACLU to help them because they wanted the freedom to visit their friends and family in Virginia without being arrested. In 1959, the Lovings had police burst into their bedroom in the middle of the night, intent on catching them having sex—which was illegal in Virginia between mixed couples. Instead the police found them sleeping. Nevertheless, they were sentenced to a year in prison if they remained in Virginia. They moved away.
The result was the Loving v. Virginia case which in 1967 struck down the miscegenation law.

As Ted Olson wrote: “Marriage is one of the building blocks of our neighborhoods and our nation. At its best, it is a stable bond between two individuals who work to create a loving household and a social and economic partnership….It transforms two individuals into a union based on shared aspirations, and in doing so establishes a formal investment in the well-being of society.”

In 2007, Mildred Jeter Loving, a woman of African-American and Native American Descent spoke out on the 40th Anniversary of Loving v. Virginia about marriage equality.

Mildred said, “I believe all Americans, no matter their race, no matter their sex, no matter their sexual orientation, should have that same freedom to marry... I am still not a political person, but I am proud that Richard’s and my name is on a court case that can help reinforce the love, the commitment, the fairness and the family that so many people, black or white, young or old, gay or straight, seek in life. I support the freedom to marry for all. That’s what Loving, and loving, are all about. ”

Jackie Young
930 Kaheka Street, PHB5
Honolulu, HI 96814

League of Women Voters of Hawaii
49 South Hotel Street, Room 314 | Honolulu, HI 96813
www.lwv-hawaii.com | 808.531.7448 | voters@lwvhawaii.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair and Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair

Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 A.M. State Capitol Auditorium

S.B. 1 Relating to Equal Rights

TESTIMONY
Beppie Shapiro, Legislative Committee member, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii strongly supports SB1 which recognizes marriage between two persons of the same sex in the State of Hawaii.

LEGAL RATIONALE FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

The US Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment, (Section 1) guarantees equal protection under the law stating "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

In most instances, the Supreme Court permits laws that do not treat people equally if the laws have a "rational basis" and a "legitimate purpose." The League speaks later in this testimony to "rational" arguments advanced in favor of restricting marriage to a man and a woman. As to 'legitimate purpose', in *Romer v. Evans* (1995) Justice Kennedy wrote for the majority "If the constitutional conception of 'equal protection of the laws' means anything, it must at the very least mean that a bare desire to harm a politically unpopular group cannot constitute a legitimate governmental interest." [1] The group in question was homosexuals

While Hawai`i's Civil Unions law provides state benefits for same-sex couples, this is not the case for Federal benefits, such as income tax deductions; the ability to file joint

[1] http://www2.law.columbia.edu/faculty_franke/Gay_Marriage/Romer%20edited.pdf, accessed 9/22/13.

taxes; the ability to receive a spouse's inheritance; preferential treatment under immigration laws; benefits such as health care to spouses of federal employees or veterans, and continuation of some benefits after death or divorce. How can Hawaii prohibit same sex marriage after this summer's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that invalidated DOMA restrictions on Federal benefits to same-sex couples?

Arguments based on religious principles or authority confuse civil marriage (which is licensed and regulated by the State), and religious marriage ceremonies conducted under the auspices of an organized religion. Same-sex couples may choose a civil marriage officiated by a judge, but if they seek religious ceremonies, the bill allows clergy/churches to choose whether or not to provide these ceremonies; many churches which support the proposed bill will presumably do so.

Since the proposed bill states that clergy will not be ***required*** to perform same-sex marriages, we think the first amendment rights of religious clergy to express disapproval by not sanctioning these marriages is upheld.

However, with regard to religious facilities, it is entirely appropriate that Hawaii's public accommodations law be applied if a religious organization operates its facility as a for-profit business, and/or allows non-members to use its facilities for weddings. This law protects our citizens from prejudicial exclusions.

We now call on the legislature to support and defend the U.S. Constitution, which by Supreme Court interpretation of the First Amendment Establishment clause includes the separation of church and state. We hope you will be able to separate religious belief and individual civil rights in this important situation.

"RATIONAL" ARGUMENTS AGAINST MARRIAGE EQUALITY

The 2010 U.S. Census reported that 27% of Hawaii's households headed by same-sex couples include children. Some opponents of marriage equality argue that children of same-sex parents experience a lower quality of life than children living with a male and female parent. However, "scientific research that has directly compared outcomes for children with gay and lesbian parents with outcomes for children with heterosexual parents has been consistent in showing that lesbian and gay parents are as fit and capable as heterosexual parents, and their children are as psychologically healthy and well-adjusted as children reared by heterosexual parents."[2] In general, children benefit from living in stable, two parent families. Having a clear legal relationship with both parents simplifies situations from school and medical emergencies to the death of a parent. Legal marriage will promote stable same-sex families both because of the recognized commitment, and the enhanced financial security and physical and mental health which characterize married versus cohabiting couples. [3]

[2] http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/general/2010/10/27/amicus29.pdf, accessed 9/22/13.
[3] http://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/general/2010/10/27/amicus29.pdf, accessed 9/22/13.

Others fear legalizing same-sex marriage encourages people who would otherwise be heterosexual to adopt a homosexual identity or "lifestyle". Yet research documents that most gay men and many or most lesbians do not feel they had a choice in their sexual orientation. Further, sexual orientation is highly resistant to change.[4]

Another argument is that legalizing same-sex marriage would undermine the stability and functioning of society. The executive board of the American Anthropological Association published the following Statement in 2004: "The results of more than a century of anthropological research on households, kinship relationships, and families, across cultures and through time, provide no support whatsoever for the view that either civilization or viable social order depend upon marriage as an exclusively heterosexual institution. Rather, anthropological research supports the conclusion that a vast array of family types, including families built on same-sex partnerships, can contribute to stable and humane societies."[5]

OUR CONCLUSION

The League of Women Voters believes there is ample legal precedent for same-sex marriage. We strongly reject any notion that same-sex marriages place children in the family at higher risk than heterosexual marriages. We believe that economic research has documented that marriage equality will have economic benefits to Hawai'i, with State of Hawaii and City and County of Honolulu general excise tax revenue projected to grow by $10.2 million over the 2014-2016 period.[6] The number of weddings, honeymoons, and anniversary celebrations would grow, increasing employment and tax revenue. Hawaii could also avoid modifying its tax code or public infrastructure to accommodate same-sex couples who owe taxes to Hawai'i but have already married in one of 14 other states that permit such marriage.

We hope the legislature will now have the political will to reject misplaced religious arguments in favor of protecting the civil rights of gay couples. Hawaii voters expect no less, having passed a Constitutional Amendment in the 1998 election, enabling the legislature to pass this bill: "The legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples" HAW. CONST. ARTICLE I, SECTION 23. The League of Women Voters of Hawaii urges you to thoughtfully consider our reasoning and evidence, and to enact marriage equality.

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[4] http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/tick-for-samesex-families-20130605-2npxf.html#ixzz2faBoHsrB, 6/5/2013.

[5] http://www.aaanet.org/issues/policy-advocacy/Statement-on-Marriage-and-the-family.cfm; accessed 9/22/13).

[6] Sumner LaCroix and Lauren Gabriel, "The Impact of Marriage Equality on Hawaii's Economy and Government: An Update after the U.S. Supreme Court's Same-Sex Marriage Decisions," Research Paper from the Economic and Research Organization at the University of Hawaii, July 25, 2013.

HAWAI'I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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October 28, 2013
State Capitol Auditorium
10:30 a.m.

To: The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Linda Krieger, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

Re: S.B. No. 1

The Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission has enforcement jurisdiction over state laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state-funded services. The HCRC carries out the Hawai'i constitutional mandate that "no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights because of race, religion, sex or ancestry". Art. I, Sec. 5.

The Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) strongly supports the proposed marriage equality legislation, as offered in S.B. No. 1.

We also support inclusion of a religious exemption for clergy who refuse to solemnize any marriage, as found in the proposed HRS § 572-E.

The HCRC supports inclusion of a religious exemption for religious facilities that are used for religious activities, if those facilities are not public accommodations. However, if the use of the facility is offered to the general public, HRS Chapter 489 prohibitions against discrimination in public accommodations should apply. The HCRC opposes any exemption that diminishes protections against discrimination under our public accommodations law. Enactment of marriage equality legislation should not be a vehicle or excuse to weaken or diminish existing civil rights protections.

In this regard, the HCRC has serious concern over the proposed religious exemption found in the proposed HRS § 572-F, which diminishes state law protections against discrimination in public accommodations.

HCRC Support for S.B. No. 1 and Marriage Equality

To our credit, Hawai'i was the first state to seriously consider the issue of same-sex marriage, and more specifically, the denial of rights to same-sex couples that are recognized by law for married couples. In its 1993 landmark decision *Baehr v. Lewin*, the Hawai'i Supreme Court held that denial of the benefits accorded to married couples to same-sex couples, who could not obtain a license to marry, was sex-based discrimination in violation of the constitutional guarantee of equal protection, absent the showing of a compelling state interest. Now, twenty years later, the legislature is poised to make Hawai'i the 14th state, in addition to the District of Columbia, to recognize same-sex marriages. With enactment of this legislation, same-sex married couples in Hawai'i and their families will be entitled to federal rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities that are and would be denied to them if state law continued to recognize only civil unions but not marriage for same-sex couples. With enactment of marriage equality legislation, Hawai'i lives up to its promise of equal treatment for all of its people.

Prohibited Discrimination in Public Accommodations and Religious Facilities

The State has a compelling interest in the elimination of discrimination in public accommodations.

HRS § 368-1 states:

> The legislature finds and declares that the practice of discrimination because of race, color, religion, age, sex, including gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, nationsl origin, ancestry, or disability in employment, housing, public accommodations, or access to services receiving state financial assistance is against public policy.

The HCRC supports proposed religious exemptions for clergy who refuse to solemnize marriages and for religious organizations that refuse to make religious facilities available for solemnization of a marriage, if the religious facility is not a place of public accommodation.

These exemptions can be found in our civil unions law, at HRS §§ 572B-4(c) and 572B-9.5, and in the proposed marriage equality bill offered earlier by Governor Abercrombie.

The HCRC has enforcement jurisdiction over the state law prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations, HRS Chapter 489.

HRS § 489-3 prohibits discrimination in places of public accommodation based on race, sex, including gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, color, religion, ancestry, or disability.

"Place of public accommodation" is defined in HRS § 489-2, as: "[A] business, accommodation, refreshment, entertainment, recreation, or transportation facility of any kind whose goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations are extended, offered, sold or otherwise made available to the general public as customers, clients, or visitors."

Religious facilities are not subject to the public accommodations law unless goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations are offered to the general public. Churches are free to discriminate as long as they do not operate a place of public accommodation. If offered for public use, the public accommodations law applies and unlawful discrimination is prohibited.

The public accommodations law is clear. It is a law of general applicability that serves a compelling state interest and does not target religion. Opening the door to broad or numerous exemptions to our state civil rights laws undermines the compelling state interest and invites constitutional challenges. It is not necessary to create exemptions to our civil rights laws to enact marriage equality legislation, and to do so will weaken existing civil rights protections, creating a slippery slope that leads to demands for additional exemptions.

The HCRC opposes proposals to create exemptions that weaken protections against discrimination under our public accommodations law. For this reason, the HCRC does not support the propsed HRS § 572-F exemption for religious facilities, which will allow discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation (and all other protected bases) in places of public accommodations for solemnizations of marriage.

HCRC Concerns Regarding the Proposed HRS § 572-F

If the legislature chooses keep the exemption for religious organizations and facilities along the lines provided in the proposed HRS § 572-F, the HCRC strongly urges clarification of the scope of the exemption, to narrow its focus and avoid claims of broad applicability that will erode the strong protections against discrimination in public accommodations effected by HRS Chapter 489.

The proposed HRS § 572-F reads:

> **§ 572-F Religious organizations and facilities; liability exemption under certain circumstances.** Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, no ***religious organization*** shall be subject to any fine, penalty, injunction, administrative proceeding, or civil liability for refusing to make its facilities or grounds available for solemnization of any marriage celebration under this chapter; provided that the religious organization does not make its facilities or grounds available to the general public for solemnization of any marriage celebration ***for a profit***.
>
> For purposes of this section, a religious organization ***accepting donations from the public***, providing religious services to the public, or otherwise permitting the public to enter the religious organization's premises ***shall not constitute "for a profit."***
>
> (***emphasis added***).

HCRC concerns:

There is no definition of "religious organization". The statutory language could be interpreted to include what might be considered "churches" in a generic sense – places of worship including, for example, mosques, synagogues, and temples – as well as "religious organizations" generically, which could include nondenominational ministries, interdenominational and ecumenical organizations, and other entities whose principle purpose is the study or advancement of religion. Such interpretation would be consistent with a known standard, as developed in interpretation of the Internal Revenue Code. In S.B. No. 1, the

exemption is narrowly drawn, because it only applies to refusal to solemnize any marriage, but the lack of a definition of "religious organization" leaves it unclear whether the exemption extends to facilities that are owned, controlled, or operated by a religious organization (e.g., the YMCA, YWCA, Salvation Army, Catholic Diocese, etc.), and confusion could open the door to other entities asserting claims to the exemption. If the scope of the exemption is meant only to cover "churches", as in places of worship, that should be clarified.

There is no definition of "for a profit". "For a profit" is not defined, except in the negative, as the last sentence of HRS § 572-F explains what does not constitute "for a profit". We understand that the intent of the statutory language is to capture those religious organizations that make substantial amounts of money in return for the use of their religious facilities – entering the stream of commerce by offering the use of the facilities for money.

With the "[n]otwithstanding any other law" language, the religious facilities exemption creates an exemption from our state law prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations, HRS Chapter 489, allowing discrimination in the use of religious facilities for solemnization of weddings, even if open to the public for that use, if not "for a profit". The use of "for a profit" as a qualifying criteria for the exemption injects the concept of "for a profit" into the HCRC's public accommodations statutory scheme.

The HRS § 489-2 definition of "place of public accommodation "is a "… business, accommodation, refreshment, entertainment, recreation or transportation facility of any kind, whose goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations are extended, offered, sold, or otherwise made available to the general public as customers, clients, or visitors." Whether a facility is operated for a profit or whether the public is charged a fee is not relevant to coverage and jurisdiction.

The lack of a definition begs the question of whether "[not] for a profit" means "nonprofit", and whether all churches and religious organizations are by definition, operation, and character not "for a profit". If it is not the intent of the Senate to create such a broad exemption for all nonprofit churches and religious organizations, that should be clarified.

In addition, the last sentence of HRS § 572-F states: "For the purposes of this section, a religious organization accepting donations from the public … shall not constitute "for a profit". This could arguably be read to allow an exemption for religious organizations that allow the use

of their facilities for a substantial "suggested donation".

Clarification is needed to avoid vagueness, ambiguity, and confusion. The HCRC suggests that the legislature might look to the State Department of Taxation (DoTax) interpretation of what church activities are exempt from excise taxes. DoTax focuses on whether the activity is religious or income-producing. "Fundraising activities" that generate income and are outside of the exempt purpose are taxable; the activity does not have to be profitable. *See*, Tax Facts 98-3, "Tax Issues for Hawaii Nonprofit Organizations", November 1998. (Attachment A).

A 1997 DoTax Tax Advisory, "Tax Advisory on the Application of the General Excise Tax to Tourist Wedding Activities of Churches", April 27, 1997, is instructive and useful. (Attachment B).

In that advisory, DoTax advises:

> In performing traditional wedding ceremonies, a church is conducting an activity that is religious in nature. Accordingly, income received from the conduct of these ceremonies are generally considered exempt from the general excise tax. With the recent introduction of tourist "wedding" activities on church premises on a wholesale basis, questions have arisen as to whether the income derived from this activity qualifies for exemption from the general excise tax.
>
> The test is whether the primary purpose of the tourist "wedding" activity is religious or fundraising in nature. If fundraising, the income derived from the activity will be subject to the 4 percent general excise tax. This determination is made on a case-by-case basis taking into account all of the facts involved.
>
> For example, if the ceremony performed is in fact a wedding (as opposed to, say, a reenactment of one) conducted on church premises by the church minister, priest, or other officiator, then the activity will be considered religious and not income-producing. On the other hand, if the weddings are arranged, packaged and conducted through a commercial entity without church involvement other than making available the use of church premises, the "wedding" activity will be considered fundraising in nature. Even though the wedding activity may

be conducted by the church minister, priest, or other officiator, the activity can take on a commercial hue that is so predominant as to render it fundraising in nature (considering the size and frequency of the activity, how the activity is marketed, the amount of time and resources expended, and the amount of revenues derived from the activity).

* * * * *

Aside from tourist wedding activities, many church facilities are made available for use by other organizations, individuals, or community groups. Amounts charged for this use will be considered rental income subject to the 4 percent general excise tax. Whether it is called "rental," "user donation," "donation," or by some other designation, the charge for the use of church facilities will as a general rule be considered fundraising in nature.

The DoTax approach is instructive in several ways:

In interpreting the General Excise Tax law, DoTax is considering what kind of exemption is required for religious activities, while enforcing its law of general applicability. They focus the inquiry on the nature of the activity.

DoTax narrowly focuses the scope of the exemption on the use of church premises. They articulate a standard and lay out a simple test.

And, DoTax makes it clear that all fundraising, regardless of whether for a profit or not, is not exempt, and disregards the designation of amounts charged or income as a "donation" in their analysis.

CONCLUSION

The HCRC supports marriage equality and urges your favorable consideration of S.B. No. 1 to recognize same-sex marriages.

The HCRC also supports express religious exemptions for clergy and religious facilities that are used for religious activities and do not offer goods, services, or facilities to the general public, but opposes proposals to create exemptions that diminish protections against discrimination under our state public accommodations law. In that regard, the HCRC urges the legislature to amend S.B. No. 1 to eliminate the proposed HRS 572-F exemption.

Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

Testimony RE: S.B. No. 1

Attachment A

Tax Facts 98-3, "Tax Issues for Hawaii Nonprofit Organizations", November 1998.

TAX FACTS

From the
State of Hawaii, Department of Taxation

November, 1998

TAX ISSUES FOR HAWAII NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

98-3

Due to the generous nature of the people of Hawaii, we have a multitude of groups that are organized as "not-for-profit" in nature. Tax Facts No. 95-1, "All About the Hawaii Use Tax" and Tax Facts No. 96-1, "General Excise vs. Sales Tax" also may be helpful when reading this issue of Tax Facts. The Department has also issued a Tax Advisory on the application of the general excise tax (GET) to tourist wedding activities of churches dated April 21, 1997, that contains specific information about the GET exemption for churches and, in particular, their tourist wedding activities. The following are some the commonly asked questions regarding the taxation of tax-exempt organizations.

1. What is the difference between "nonprofit" and "tax-exempt" organizations?

For federal income tax purposes (federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986 — the "IRC"), tax-exempt status is accorded to certain kinds of organizations whether they be corporations, associations, trusts, or other entities. To achieve tax-exempt status, the organization must be organized and operated in a manner that conforms to the requirements set out in the IRC in addition to those prescribed under state law. Some organizations must also apply for determination of their exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"). The federal rules are complex and explained in IRS Publication 557, "Tax-Exempt Status for your Organization."

These "tax-exempt" organizations include those that are organized as not-for-profit, such as corporations organized under Hawaii nonprofit corporation laws. However, merely organizing as a nonprofit entity does not necessarily mean that the IRS will recognize it as tax-exempt. Again, the IRC imposes additional requirements to achieve tax-exempt status.

2. How do we qualify for tax-exempt treatment under Hawaii tax laws?

Hawaii imposes two taxes that are potentially applicable to organizations seeking tax-exempt status—the income tax and the GET.

The organization will be exempt from Hawaii *income* tax if the organization qualifies for exemption for federal income tax purposes under the IRC. If the organization is the type that must obtain a determination of exempt status from the IRS, then Hawaii will follow the determination of the IRS in this regard. No separate determination is required for Hawaii income tax purposes from the Hawaii Department of Taxation. Organizations organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, or educational purposes as described in IRC section 501(c)(3) are generally required to submit an application to the IRS to request recognition of exemption from federal income taxes. Certain organizations are not required to obtain from the IRS a determination of their exempt status. These organizations are exempt from Hawaii income tax if they meet the requirements of the IRC section under which they claim to be exempt provided that Hawaii has adopted those IRC provisions. Hawaii has adopted the federal provisions of IRC section 501, except for IRC sections 501(c)(12), (15), and (16). IRC section 501(a) provides an exemption from federal income taxes to organizations described in IRC sections 501(c), 501(d), and 401(a). See IRS Publication 557 for procedures on how to apply for recognition of exempt status with the IRS.

3. We have been recognized as a tax-exempt organization by the IRS. When is our State income tax exemption effective?

The effective date for the exemption from Hawaii income taxes is the same as the effective date for federal purposes. You are not required to separately register or otherwise apply for recognition of exemption from the Hawaii Department of Taxation for *income* tax exemption purposes; however, as you will see in Question #6, you will need to do this for GET exemption purposes. As with the IRS, you must substantiate your organization's status as tax-exempt in the event that you are audited by the Hawaii Department of Taxation. If the organization is not required to file an application with the IRS, the effective date for Hawaii income tax will be the same date that the organization meets the requirements of the IRC section under which it is claiming to be exempt. In the event that the IRS revokes your exemption, Hawaii will treat the organization as taxable upon the effective date of that revocation.

4. We have been recognized as a tax-exempt organization by the IRS, what are my reporting requirements for Hawaii Income Tax purposes?

IRS publication 557 discusses the filing requirements and required disclosures of tax-exempt organizations for federal income tax purposes. If you are required to file Form 990-T with the IRS, you are required to file the corresponding Form

N-70NP and pay any tax due for Hawaii income tax purposes on this unrelated business income. Although you may be required to file a Form 990 or Form 990-EZ with the IRS, you are not required to file any corresponding information return for Hawaii income tax purposes. Private foundations, however, are required to file a copy of their federal filings with the Attorney General.

5. The IRS has stated that we must file Form 990-T for "unrelated business income". What type of income is this and do we have to file a return with Hawaii?

The IRS has issued guidelines regarding unrelated business income in IRS Publication 598, "Tax on Unrelated Business Income of Exempt Organizations". Hawaii follows the federal determination of unrelated business income for Hawaii *income* tax purposes. This refers to income from sales activity regularly carried on that is not in furtherance of an exempt purpose.

6. If we are treated as tax-exempt for income tax purposes, does this mean we also are exempt from paying the GET?

Not necessarily. The GET law provides that certain organizations created for purposes enumerated in sections 237-23(a)(3) through (6), of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), must apply for exemption from the payment of GET by filing Form G-6, Application for Exemption from the Payment of General Excise Taxes, with the Hawaii Department of Taxation. A one-time $20 registration fee must be paid with Form G-6. If your organization already has paid the $20 fee to obtain a general excise license number, you do not need to submit the $20 registration fee — just fill in your GET license number on the Form G-6 in the box provided. See the Instructions for Form G-6 for a more detailed discussion of organizations which qualify to apply for a GET exemption.

7. We filed Form G-6 and received a letter approving the GET exemption for our organization. If approved, when is the exemption effective?

The law requires that the Form G-6 be filed within three (3) months of the commencement of business (with extensions of up to two (2) months for good cause). If the Form G-6 is filed within the required or extended period, the exemption shall apply to income earned from the date of commencement of business. If filed after this period, the exemption applies only to income received on or after the date the Form G-6 was filed. Once the exemption is allowed, no further application is necessary unless there is a material change in your objectives or operations.

8. If granted the exemption, is all of the income we now receive exempt from the GET?

It depends. Amounts received as dues, donations, or gifts are not included in gross income subject to the GET. However, gross receipts derived from any activity the primary purpose of which is to produce income are subject to the GET even though used to fund the exempt purposes or activities of the organization. Consequently, gross income received from the conduct of any fundraising activity is subject to the GET. Other income may be exempt from the GET depending on the nature of the activity giving rise to the income in relation to the organization's stated exempt purpose (see Question #9).

9. What types of activities are considered "fundraising activities"?

In general, "fundraising activities" are activities conducted with the intention of generating income, and are outside of the organization's stated exempt purpose. The activity does not have to be profitable in order to be taxable, and can include gross receipts from a single event. (Do not confuse this with "unrelated business income" as defined for *income* tax purposes.)

Although casual sales are exempt from the GET, this exemption is not applicable to fundraisers. A fundraising activity would not be considered a "casual sale" since the activity is not a single occasional sale nor an incidental sale. It is an infrequent activity comprised of numerous sales or transactions, e.g., white elephant sales, fairs, bazaars, and the like. Furthermore, it does not matter that the items being sold were donated to the organization.

> Example: An educational institution's stated purpose is "to educate students in an environment conducive to learning". The institution charges tuition to attend the institution and also sells learning materials. Occasionally, the institution has a fair or sells baked goods or other merchandise to raise funds for the institution to operate.

The gross income from the tuition and sale of learning materials is exempt from the GET since it is generated in the performance of the organization's stated exempt purpose. The gross income from the fair and other fundraising activities, although the income received from the activities is to be used in the fulfilment of the organization's stated purpose, is generated from activities outside the scope of the organization's stated purpose with the object of gain or economic benefit and is taxable for GET purposes.

10. If we are registered with the State as tax-exempt under the GET law, does this mean we also are exempt from paying the GET visibly passed on by a vendor when we purchase items from the vendor?

No. Because the GET is levied on the business receiving the income rather than on the customer, businesses still are subject to the GET on their sales to tax-exempt organizations. The business is not tax-exempt, even if the customer is. Therefore, tax-exempt organizations may have the GET visibly passed on to them when they buy goods and services. The

pass on of the GET is a matter of contract between the vendor and the tax-exempt customer.

11. Our organization rents out facilities it owns to other nonprofits, members, and the general public. Are these rents subject to the GET?

Yes. In general, when an organization leases or rents its facilities out to others, it is considered to be engaging in a business activity even if the rent may be just a cost recovery amount. Some organizations whose stated primary purpose is to provide facilities to the underprivileged or other exempt organizations may not be subject to the GET if they have been properly registered with the Department. See Question #6.

12. What type of income qualifies as donations and why aren't donations subject to the GET?

A donation is a gift which is voluntarily given without compensation or any expectation of return. Section 237-24(4), HRS, exempts "the value of all property of every kind and sort acquired by gift, bequest or devise". If a donor purchases a ticket for a dinner, concert, bowl of chili, or the like, the ticket sale is not a donation because something of value is being received for the donation. This remains true whether or not the donor has any intention of redeeming the ticket. Whether a receipt is a true donation depends on the circumstances of the activity involved, not on the name given to the transaction. For example, if an organization offers the use of its facilities in exchange for a "donation", the receipt will be treated as rental income subject to the GET.

13. We received payments for a benefit dinner. Why are we taxable on the gross amount and not just the amount designated as the cost of the dinner?

The rules for determining the amount of the contribution deductible for income tax purposes and the amount subject to the GET differ. For income tax purposes, federal rules permit under some circumstances the subtraction of the value of the goods or services provided by the charity from the total contribution to determine the deductible portion of the contribution. The GET, as a gross receipts tax, does not allow for such deductions to reduce the gross receipts subject to the GET even if a portion of the ticket price is considered a "donation".

14. We sell items and services which are donated to our organization. Are the amounts received from the sale of these donated items and services taxable for GET purposes?

Yes. The sale (including sales by auction) by a tax-exempt organization of donated items for fundraising purposes is an "activity the primary purpose of which is to produce income"; consequently, the gross proceeds derived from the activity is subject to the GET.

15. Does an activity have to be "profitable" in order for it to be subject to the GET?

No. See Questions #9 and #13.

16. We receive interest income from interest bearing checking and savings accounts. Are these amounts taxable for GET purposes?

The law provides that gross income subject to the GET includes, among other things, all receipts, actual or accrued by reason of the investment of the capital of the business engaged in, including interest. The contributions, donations, and dues received by the organization, as well as the income derived in conjunction with the organization's tax-exempt purpose and deposited in the bank, do not constitute "investment of the capital of a business in which engaged". A tax-exempt organization is not created for the purpose of making profits and, in theory, the interest received is deemed incidental to the primary purpose of depositing the monies in the bank for safekeeping, not for a business purpose, and consequently is not subject to the GET. However, interest earned from funds derived from an unrelated trade or business activity would be subject to the GET. See Question #5. (For a general discussion on the application of the GET to interest income, see Tax Information Release No. 42-74.)

17. If we are registered with the State as an exempt organization under the GET law, does this mean we also are exempt from paying the use tax?

No. Although section 237-23, HRS, exempts certain nonprofit organizations which have properly registered for exemption from the GET, the use tax law does not provide a corresponding exemption. The use tax levels the playing field for local merchants by requiring customers who acquire goods from out-of-state sellers to pay a tax on that purchase at the same rate that an in-state seller would have paid in GET if the sale had occurred in Hawaii. For more information on the use tax law, see Tax Facts No. 95-1, "All About the Hawaii Use Tax".

18. Where can we get additional information and assistance on how to start a nonprofit organization?

Act 120, Session Laws of Hawaii 1996, effective July 1, 1996, eliminated the requirement that charitable organizations register or file a statement of exemption with the Business Registration Division of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) prior to soliciting funds in Hawaii. Act 120 did not eliminate the annual report requirements for foreign or domestic nonprofit corporations or any tax return filing requirements. For information on how to organize your nonprofit organization under Hawaii's Nonprofit Corporation Act (Chapter 415B, HRS), contact the Business Registration Division of the DCCA at (808)586-2727.

There also is a nonprofit organization which has an

assistance program to help individuals set up a nonprofit organization. Contact the Hawaii Community Services Council, Help for Nonprofits Program, 200 N. Vineyard Boulevard, Suite 415, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817, or call them at (808) 521-3861.

STATE DISTRICT TAX OFFICE ADDRESSES & TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Website (Forms & Information)
http://www.state.hi.us/tax/tax.html

Forms by Mail
808-587-7572
Toll-Free: 1-800-222-7572

Forms by FAX
Oahu 587-7572
Outside Oahu 808-678-9522 from your fax machine

CD-ROM (Forms & Info)
Nominal Cost (Limited Supply)

Recorded Tax Updates
808-587-1234 and press 7700

Telephone Devices for the Deaf (TDD)
Tax Service & Processing
808-587-1418
Toll-Free: 1-800-887-8974

Oahu District Tax Office
830 Punchbowl Street
P. O. Box 3559
Honolulu, HI 96811-3559

Tax Information
Telephone No.: 808-587-4242
Jan.-April 20: 808-587-6515
Toll-Free: 1-800-222-3229
Fax No.: 808-587-1488

Maui District Tax Office
54 South High Street
P. O. Box 913
Wailuku, HI 96793-0913

Telephone No.: 808-984-8500
Fax No.: 808-984-8522

Hawaii District Tax Office
75 Aupuni Street
P. O. Box 1377
Hilo, HI 96721-1377

Telephone No.: 808-974-6321
Fax No.: 808-974-6300

Kauai District Tax Office
3060 Eiwa Street
P. O. Box 1688
Lihue, HI 96766-5688

Telephone No.: 808-274-3456
Fax No.: 808-274-3461

The following publications are available from the Department of Taxation:

"An Introduction to the General Excise Tax"
"An Introduction to the Use Tax"
"An Introduction to the Tax Clearance Procedure"
Tax Facts 95-1: *"All About the Hawaii Use Tax"*
Tax Facts 96-1: *"General Excise vs. Sales Tax"*
Tax Facts 96-3: *"Tax Clearances Now Needed by Businesses Entering into State & County Contracts"*
Tax Facts 97-3: *"Starting a Business - Licenses and Taxes"*
Tax Information Release No. 21-69, *"General Excise Tax and Real Property Tax Exemptions as Applicable to Preschools or Day-Care Centers Operated by Churches"*
Tax Information Release No. 42-74, *"Application of the General Excise Tax to Interest Income"*
Tax Information Release No. 89-6, *"General Excise Tax on the Fundraising Activities of Public School Sponsored Groups"*
Tax Information Release No. 89-13, *Application for Exemption from the General Excise Taxes for Nonprofit Organizations"*
Tax Information Release No. 91-2, *"Taxability of Gross Proceeds Received by a Nonprofit Organization From the Sale of Donated Services or Tangible Personal Property"*
Tax Information Release No. 91-4, *"Hawaii Tax Obligations of Nonprofit Organizations"*

Some of the information contained in this Tax Facts was obtained from the Internal Revenue Service Publication 557, *"Tax Exempt Status for Your Organization"*

Tax Facts is a publication of the Department of Taxation on tax subjects of current interest and is not intended to be a complete statement of the law. Subsequent developments in the law (legislation, rules, cases, etc.) should be consulted.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: TAXPAYER SERVICES (808) 587-4242

Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission

Testimony RE: S.B. No. 1

Attachment B

"Tax Advisory on the Application of the General Excise Tax to Tourist Wedding Activities of Churches", April 27, 1997.

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR

MAZIE HIRONO
LT. GOVERNOR

RAY K. KAMIKAWA
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

SUSAN K. INOUYE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
PO BOX 259
HONOLULU, HI 96809

April 21, 1997

TAX ADVISORY ON THE APPLICATION OF THE GENERAL EXCISE TAX TO TOURIST WEDDING ACTIVITIES OF CHURCHES

Recently, questions have been raised regarding the application of the general excise tax to the income received from tourist "wedding" activities on church premises. This advisory provides information about the general excise tax exemption for churches and, in particular, their tourist wedding activities.

Section 237-23(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), provides that the general excise tax shall not apply to corporations, associations, trusts, or societies organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, or educational purposes.

Section 237-23(b), HRS, further provides that the exemption shall apply only to the fraternal, religious, charitable, scientific, educational, communal, or social welfare activities of such persons, and not to any activity the primary purpose of which is to produce income even though the income is to be used for or in furtherance of the exempt activities of such persons.

Section 237-23(c), HRS, provides that in order to obtain an exemption from the general excise taxes, the organization must file Form G-6, Application for Exemption from the Payment of General Excise Taxes, with the Hawaii Department of Taxation for approval.

The following discussion assumes that the church in question is organized and operated for a religious purpose, and has applied and received approval for exemption from the general excise tax.

In performing traditional wedding ceremonies, a church is conducting an activity that is religious in nature. Accordingly, income received from the conduct of these ceremonies are generally considered exempt from the general excise tax. With the recent introduction of tourist "wedding" activities on church premises on a wholesale basis, questions have arisen as to whether the income derived from this activity qualifies for exemption from the general excise tax.

The test is whether the primary purpose of the tourist "wedding" activity is religious or fundraising in nature. If fundraising, the income received from the activity will be subject to the 4 percent general excise tax. This determination is made on a case-by-case basis taking into account all of the facts involved.

For example, if the ceremony performed is in fact a wedding (as opposed to, say, a reenactment of one) conducted on church premises by the church minister, priest, or other officiator, then the activity will be considered religious and not income-producing. On the other hand, if the weddings are arranged, packaged and conducted through a commercial entity without church involvement other than making available the use of church premises, the "wedding" activity will be considered fundraising in nature. Even though the wedding activity may be conducted by the church minister, priest, or other officiator, the activity can take on a commercial hue that is so predominant as to render it fundraising in nature (considering the size and frequency of the activity, how the activity is marketed, the amount of time and resources expended, and the amount of revenues derived from the activity).

We recognize that there maybe other factual circumstances not detailed in the preceding paragraph. In order to ensure that the correct reporting position is being taken on these activities, a church may ask the department for a ruling on its specific circumstances. A ruling is requested by submitting a Form A-7 to the department. Please call 587-7572, our forms line, and ask for the Form A-7 with instructions.

In general, the honoraria or fee that the minister, priest, or other officiator receives for performing the wedding ceremony is subject to the 4 percent general excise tax. However, where the honoraria or fee is turned over intact to the church and the wedding ceremony is not viewed as primarily fundraising, then the gross income will not be taxable under the general excise tax.

Aside from tourist wedding activities, many church facilities are made available for use by other organizations, individuals, or community groups. Amounts charged for this use will be considered rental income subject to the 4 percent general excise tax. Whether it is called "rental," "user donation," "donation," or by some other designation, the charge for the use of church facilities will as a general rule be considered fundraising in nature.

O‘AHU COUNTY COMMITTEE
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI‘I

October 27, 2013

Aloha Chair Hee and Vice Chair Shimabukuro:

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights (Marriage Equality), in my capacity as Chair of the O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i.

Our State Legislature routinely considers matters of great import for Hawaii and all of her people. Every now and then, however, a piece of legislation is brought to the fore that crosses the line from important to fundamental. SB 1 is just such a piece of legislation as it addresses basic issues of human rights, self-determination, and the freedom to love whom you want.

In 1967, the Supreme Court of the United States, in the appropriately titled case of Loving v. Virginia, held that Virginia's "Racial Integrity Act of 1924," which prohibited marriage between people classified as "white" and people classified as "colored," was unconstitutional. Chief Justice Earl Warren's decision for a unanimous court held in part that "[m]arriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival . . . [t]o deny this fundamental freedom on so unsupportable a basis as the racial classifications . . . is surely to deprive all the State's citizens of liberty without due process of law."

Although Loving overturned a prohibition against interracial marriages between black people and white people, those prohibitions reflected a racial animus that surely extended to any type of so-called mixed marriages. Imagine what *our* state would look like under such a construct. There are likely few people in this room right now who can claim only one ethnic heritage. That diversity has made Hawaii strong. It has made us beautiful. It has made us an example for the rest of the world of what can be accomplished, through the aloha spirit, when two consenting adults love each other and commit to each other, and are not denied that right simply because someone else doesn't approve of their marriage.

Who you love should not be defined and limited by *what* you are.

DOMA has been overturned. President Barack Obama, Hawaii's native son, did us proud as the first sitting American President to go on record supporting marriage equity. And in May of this year it was reported that 53% of Americans say the law should recognize same-sex marriages, the third consecutive reading of 50% or above in Gallup polling over the past year.

Some have opposed this bill arguing that a parade of horribles will follow if it is passed. We know instinctively that is not true, but, fortunately, we don't need to rely on mere instinct. This is no experiment. It has already been tried and tested. And it has worked.

As of October 2013, fourteen states (California, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington), the District of Columbia, several counties in New Mexico, and seven Native American

tribal jurisdictions – covering 33% of the US population – issue marriage licenses for same-sex couples. Oregon recognizes same-sex marriages performed in other states. Society has not broken down in those states. Opposite sex couples have not stopped getting married in those states. Rates of child abuse have not increased in those states. All that has happened is that more families have been solidified through the bonds of marriage. More educated, productive couples have moved to those states that value their relationships, and as a result those states have seen their economies strengthen, according to reports from organizations ranging from the Congressional Budget Office to CNN Money.

Marriage equity is the right thing to do. It's also the smart thing to do for Hawaii's economy. That's a powerful combination.

Section 5-7.5 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes provides that “[i]n exercising their power on behalf of the people and in fulfillment of their responsibilities, obligations and service to the people, the legislature . . . may contemplate and reside with the life force and give consideration to the ‘Aloha Spirit.’”

We believe that extending equal rights to all is within the keeping of the Aloha Spirit.

Finally, marriage equity is part of the platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai’i. That is why the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai’i passed a resolution on August 24, 2013 asking this body pass marriage equity legislation during a special session. Therefore, I end this testimony with a simple thank you. Thank you for taking up this issue. Thank you for providing hope to loving couples all across Hawaii that soon they too may be able to proudly proclaim their love through marriage, rather than be relegated to some "less than" status. Thank you for having the courage and vision to make this possible.

Mahalo nui loa,

Joshua Wisch

Chair, O‘ahu County Democrats of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

From: Rev. George M. Lee
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:45:57 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I have lived and worked in Hawaii since 1966. I am now 86 years old and I speak with the maturity of years in church ministry and community organizing. I was one of the founders of the KEY Project, Kahaluu, the Waikiki Community Center, and partnered with the Kamehameha Schools to provide Early Childhood Education at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Mai ili.

I am married and have five children and seven grandchildren Four of the five children are in traditional marriages. The fifth is in a civil union.

We are a family of productive and caring individuals. Nothing in my family experience has ever been weakened or undermined by having a gay person or couple in it.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. The government should not be in the business of telling churches who they can marry or not marry. A group of churches should not be able to use the government to impose their doctrine on other churches and faith groups. It is what makes America a light to the rest of the world.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

The Rev. George Lee

Rev. George M. Lee
2468 Lamaku Pl
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Joel Fischer
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson; jfischer@hawaii.edu
Subject: SB1, Relating to Equal Rights, Monday, 10:30AM
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:50:06 PM

SB1, Relating to Equal Rights
JDL; Chair, Sen. Hee

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL!! IT IS LONG OVERDUE!

There are so many misinterpretations and so much misinformation out in the community about this bill to secure equal rights for all. One need only read the Letters-To-The Editor each day in the Star-Advertiser to see how many of our people are being moved by fear tactics and outright lies by the opposition. Even some editorial writers don't get it.

Take, for example, The Vicki Viotti article, “Guardians of the Faith” (Star-Advertiser, 10/20/13, p. F1). This article is based on the wrong basic premise: the “hard-nosed legal issue” is NOT “the balance between religious freedom and equal treatment.” It is, rather, does the State have the right to deprive ANYBODY of the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

As a minister since my ordination in 1966 (unaffiliated), I am shocked by the hatred and bigotry of religious “leaders” who will say anything no matter how cruel or discriminatory and use any strategy to cover up their basic hostility to any one who is different from them and in opposition to marriage equality for ALL of our people.

Take, e.g., the call to let the public vote on whether everyone deserves the civil and human rights that some of us, including my wife and me, currently enjoy. Perhaps that is not such a bad idea IF, and only if, these so-called religious leaders will accept that other rights currently enjoyed by some but not all also are put to the vote, such as:

1. The outrageous tax exemptions provided to organized religions;

2. Removing religious exemptions for ANY marriages, same sex, opposite sex or any other discriminatory practices by religions;

3. Whether full-time religious employees such as priests, ministers, rabbis and imans should be allowed to a) lobby without registering as lobbyists and b) preach to their congregations about how they should vote on any issue.

Our community needs real religious leaders like Sister Joan Chatfield ("Golden Rule Should Guide Marriage Issue", Star Advertiser, 10/20/2013, p. F2) who truly understand the capacity for religion to promote the ideology that Love Conquers Hate.

This bill will end discrimination against many of our own neighbors, relatives and friends. What kind of person could oppose an end to discrimination?

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR MOVING THIS BILL FORWARD.

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer

Professor (RET.)

University of Hawai`i, School of Social Work

Honolulu 96822

Name: Valerie Smith

Re: SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

To: Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date: 10/28/13

Time: 10:30 AM

Testimony: in person, in support

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the committee:

My wife and I are excited to welcome our first child this November. We expect this adventure to yield an abundance of joys, but we do not expect Hawaii's civil union law to compound our challenges by standing in the way of federal recognition, blocking access to critical rights, benefits, and protections. Despite holding a valid marriage license, as it now stands, our baby will be born into what Hawaii will only legally consider a civil union. Since DOMA's defeat, civil unions - once touted as fair and equal - have now been exposed as a subordinate status and a clear impediment to full equality.

Although our legal marriage status grants us limited access, those in a Hawaii civil union are denied all access to federal benefits. These include: the right to file joint tax returns and exemption from income tax on health premiums; access to Family and Medical Leave protections; and COBRA and Social Security benefits. Delaying marriage equality now effectively sanctions an unjust burden upon same-sex families.

Most married couples are unable to enumerate the 1138 federal rights marriage confers because they cannot anticipate all the circumstances in which they might need them. Instead, they derive a single, sweeping sense of security from knowing they are entitled to all. LGBT couples, however, continue to worry about when and how laws unbind them as a family. Marriage, like no other status, provides the reputation and framework for uniformity, comprehensiveness, and equal treatment.

In addition to these practical reasons, honest recognition of our shared social roles and experiences is very important to us. Ideally, our child would be born in a state that recognizes us as what we are – married. This is not only our wish as parents, but our parents' wish for their grandchild.

Religious opponents have claimed that marriage is a societal bond. I agree. Like many Americans, I grew up understanding marriage as a social institution and participated in, contributed, and aspired to its ideal. Its influence was

pervasive and reinforced at every juncture of human interaction: school, work, church, the media, etc. At home, it was upheld as a tradition and an expectation. These factors naturally instilled in me a sense of social connection, membership, and merit, engendering the awareness that marriage belongs to me as much as it does to any other individual or belief system. It is impossible to remove this sense of ownership from me to the same extent it is impossible to extract my membership and experiences from society, or even my own family.

To claim we do not merit marriage is to refuse to admit we are an inextricable part and product of society. This denial may explain why some would insist on difference rather than commonality when it comes to two of the most meaningful, life-changing events of the human condition: marriage and the gift of children.

For the sake of our family, and the many others in our state, we ask for your solidarity and support in passing marriage equality this year. As a mother-to-be, I simply cannot be expected to desire any other outcome.

From: Bradley Kane
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Testimony SB 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:13:31 AM

Hello, my name is Bradley Kane and I would like to marry my partner, Erik. Six years ago, I decided to start my family. I was a single man at the time and I had the unexpected opportunity to adopt my son, Aiden. I brought my son back to Hawaii when he was two weeks old and since then have dedicated my life to him. A few months of just myself and Aiden I decided to finally go on a first date with someone after communicating with him for the previous six months. I brought my son on the date, this person needed to know what he was getting himself into if he wanted to date me. On this first date, we went to a Thai restaurant in Manoa and it really was love at first sight. We had wonderful conversation and connected with each other. Our relationship continued to grow and we continued to learn from each other. When our son started talking, Aiden called me daddy and my partner was baba. Our son started speaking Mandarin and English from the beginning, we enrolled him in preschool, we enrolled him in kindergarten at Hahaione Elementary School in Hawaii Kai, where we live and he is now in the 1st grade. Exactly three years after our first date, I proposed to Erik on the top of Tantalus and we shared a romantic five-course meal prepared and served by great friends. Why am I sharing this with you? Some parts of my story might resonate with you. While the experiences may not be the same, I am sure we have shared the same emotions, you and I: unconditional love when you saw your child for the first time, feelings of new love with someone you have been dating, and deep love and adoration when you realize that the person you have been building your life with is the one you want to spend the rest of your life with. In 2010, marriage was moving closer and closer to reality. I proposed to my partner with the hopes that we might be able to legally be married one day. Civil Unions came along and we were happy to see movement, but we knew in our hearts that this was just not the same thing. Marriage for my partner and I would mean extra stability for our family, more resources to provide a good life for our son and our future children, and knowing that our relationship will be treated the same as other married couples through out the country. This isn't about gender, and it shouldn't be about orientation. It's about two adults having the freedom to choose to be together and have that togetherness, union, marriage accepted in the eyes of the law just as any other couple. This is important to us, I suspect that this is important for you too.

Bradley Kane, RN, M. Ed.
Graduate Student: University of Hawaii at Manoa
Family Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Public Health Nurse Graduate Program
bjkane@hawaii.edu

From: John Kimmell
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:45:04 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I never thought, in my life time, that I would see such a sweeping change in public attitude and government policy regarding LGBT issues. First, "Don't Ask Don't Tell" followed by gay men and women serving openly in our nation's military. Then, in June of this year, came the big 1 - 2, the U.S. Supreme Court's rulings on DOMA and California's Proposition 8. These rulings prompted changes in federal government policies, where more than 1000 benefits became available to same sex married couples that were previously enjoyed exclusively only by heterosexual married couples. The problem for us in Hawaii is that the federal government requires that you be legally married. Not in a domestic partnership, civil union or common law relationship, but legally married in the state in which you live and that state must allow and recognize same sex marriages.

I am a 70 year-old gay retired military officer in a 26 year same-sex relationship. My partner and I have been through the good times and the not so good times that all relationships, straight or gay, go through. We laugh; we cry and have our disagreements. We truly love each other and entered into a civil union last September. As could happen to any married couple, we are going through some of those more serious challenges that present themselves as we travel through life's journey together. A few years back I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and survived a heart attack. My partner has taken it upon himself to willingly see to my care and has been there by my side as my conditions worsen and as these diseases progress to their inevitable conclusion.

The Veterans Administration attributes these conditions to my exposure to the defoliant spray Agent Orange during my two combat tours in Vietnam where I served as a helicopter pilot. I am 100% disabled and fortunately receive medical care and a disability pension. Married couples in similar situations receive additional disability compensation and a life long survivor's pension when the veteran passes on. As you know, presently, under Hawaiian Law, we cannot marry. As a result, my partner and I are completely cut out of receiving any of these benefits. The same goes for Social Security and over 1000 other federal benefits that opposite sex couples enjoy that same sex couples do not unless they are really married. Is this equitable? NO, it is not!

Evaluate the irrational rhetoric; religious bias has no part in this issue no matter how loud they beat their drums. Please keep the church out of the debate. Remember the "tyranny of the majority" where "might does not make right". The issue is not what the Bible says but it is about civil rights as guaranteed under our Federal and Hawaii State Constitutions.

For those of you who favor the Relating to Equal Rights Bill as presented in the coming special legislative session, I urge you to hold your ground. Stay strong. Do not sway.

For those of you who are undecided or opposed to it, I urge you to reconsider your position and do the right thing. Stand up and be counted. What's fair is fair. What's right is right. Please, make your vote, YES for Equal RIghts.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
John A. Kimmell II
Queen Emma Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

John Kimmell
1200 Queen Emma Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Willy Shum
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:47:33 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am a same sex partner of 26 years to a Vietnam veteran, who is living with Agent Orange presumptive disabilities: Parkinson's Disease and ischemic heart disease, and combat-related disabilities: PTSD, back injuries among others. The every day care which I have been providing is no less than any other provided by straight spouses to their disabled love ones. It is vital for us to be protected as equal to straight surviving spouses. However, time is against us, and no one can tell what tomorrow will bring. Further time consumes in passing the Hawaii Marriage Equity Bill will in no doubt put our lives in the later years in question. Why deny the gay spouses over 1000 justified federal benefits already available to straight spouses? Did my partner not make the same life threatening sacrifices as his straight comrades?

President Obama had just made an executive decision on Sept 4, 2013 to dismantle federal barriers to same-sex marriages, announced that the Department of Veteran Affairs would immediately begin spousal benefits to gay men and lesbians despite a federal statute that limits such benefits to veterans' spouses who are of the opposite sexes.

Equality for all citizens is not a matter of majority rules, and civil rights are not matters that can be defined by religion. Marriage licenses are issued by the state not the church, which is precisely why America was founded on the separation of church and state. The bill as presented to you by the Governor has, to my belief, fairly protected the religious rights. This is a just bill which protects all concerns to the greatest degree possible. There will not be a perfect bill which offers 100% protection from future legal challenges. Thriving for that will only further delay the due process.

I urge you to follow our Commander-in-Chief's example in executing a speedy special session to legalize same-sex marriage. Stand up and be counted, vote for equality for all. Do the right thing. The time is NOW.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Willy Shum
Queen Emma Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Willy Shum
1200 Queen Emma Street
Apt. 3101
Honolulu, HI 96813

October 23, 2013

To the Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing concerning the upcoming special session on the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. My purpose is not to take a stand for or against homosexuality itself, but to express a deep concern regarding how religious freedoms will be impacted by this bill. While I understand the intent of this legislation draws from a common human goal of eliminating persecution, discrimination, and marginalization of all members of society, it does not make sufficient efforts to protect the rights of persons of faith to follow their own conscious without interference from, or the threat of litigation by, those who disagree.

While the current bill includes some weak protections for those who solemnize weddings, I believe this will do little to curb litigious attacks against freedom of religious expression. The law must allow any individual or business, public accommodation or not, to refuse to engage in any activity, including the provision of goods or services, if such activity may be reasonably construed as a display of support for events with which they do not agree. To not protect this fundament right of expression will effectively compel compliance with a particular system of morality. This is not the role of government, and it may not even be the intent of those who drafted this bill. If the issue is to enhance tolerance for all people regardless of who they are, this cannot be resolved if the remedy effectively shifts attacks from one group to another. To do so will only intensify the fight and lead to further division. We cannot heal wounds or build bridges by redirecting harm.

Yet the experiences of other states tell us this will be the result if these protections are not strengthened. Examples are many, and here I provide three.

1. In Oregon, private business owners Aaron and Melissa Klein were forced to close their bakery in the face of threats of harm from supporters of same-sex marriage after they declined to provide a cake for a same-gendered wedding.[1]
2. In New Mexico, Elane Photography was successfully sued for declining to photograph a solemnization ceremony between same-sex partners.[2]
3. In Iowa, legislation is pending regarding punitive action against a Mennonite couple, Betty and Richard Odgaard, for refusing to host a same-sex wedding at their art gallery.[3]

Although there are perhaps extremists on the fringe of the gay-rights movement (or any movement, for that matter) who intentionally seek to harm those with whom they disagree, I believe that most

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[1] See n.a. "Sweet Cakes By Melissa, Oregon Bakery That Denied Gay Couple A Wedding Cake, Closes Shop," *The Huffington Post*, Sep. 2, 2013 or Billy Hallowell, "'Bible-Thumping…B**ch': Bakers Who Refused to Make Gay Couple's Wedding Cake Shut Down Their Shop Following Threats, Anger," *The Blaze*, Sep. 2, 2013

[2] See Martha C. White, "Wedding companies that shun gays feel impact, for better or worse," *NBC News*, Oct. 14, 2013 or Doug Mataconis, "Court Holds That Wedding Photographer Cannot Refuse Service To Gay Couples," *Outside the Beltway,* Aug. 23, 2013.

[3] See Cheryl Chumley, "Mennonites Countersue Gay Couple for Right to Delay Wedding," *The Washington Times*, Oct. 14, 2013 or n.a. "Mennonite couple files counter-lawsuit in fear of being forced to host same-sex weddings," *Fox News*, Oct. 14, 2013

reasonable people on all sides would be disturbed to see the damage to the livelihood of those exercising their right to free expression as a result of legislation which is claimed to reduce discrimination. Now, the laws in some of these states actually include stronger protections for religious expression than Hawaii's proposed bill, yet even these protections have proven insufficient.

In these and many other examples, those under attack are not discriminating by refusing service based on a person's sexual orientation, but rather are declining to take an active supporting role in events with which they disagree. Discrimination against any *person* is wrong. However, declining to participate in *activities and events* that one finds morally objectionable is not discrimination, it is protecting one's own freedom of expression. It's a subtle, but critical, distinction. We must not provide a legal club to supporters of any moral philosophy that can be used to beat persons they disagree with into submission. The moral issues are important, but should be decided through individual expression and private debate, not through legal actions that side with particular belief systems.

Certainly, discrimination of any form is damaging to society, but so is forcibly compelled morality. Yet these goals need not be in conflict. Coexistence and non-discrimination necessarily entails mutual toleration. Morality cannot – it must not – be dictated or imposed by governments, churches, lawyers, judges, or anyone else. People must have the freedom to believe according to their own conscience, to follow their own faith, and to choose their own actions. This fundamental human right must be actively protected. The present bill does not.

Now, it has come to my attention that letters similar to this one have been dismissed because they do not provide wording to be included in the bill. To avoid similar dismissal I would propose the following changes to the current bill, or their equivalent.

- §572-G: Remove "provided that:" from line 5, and delete all lines 6 through 12 and lines 18 – 21.
- Add paragraph §572-H under Section 2 to read: "<u>Protections for the freedom of religious expression:</u> Pursuant to Amendment I of the United States Constitution forbidding any law which prohibits the free exercise of religion, nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require any private individual or business to engage in an activity, including the provision of goods or services, if such activity may reasonably be construed as an expression of support of same-gender marriage contrary to personal religious beliefs."

It would then be acceptable to me to leave the interpretation of "expression of support" up to individuals and those who represent them in the courts.

I thank you for your consideration of this vital issue concerning fundamental human rights and freedoms. I urge you to take steps to ensure that the Great State of Hawaii avoids the erosion of religious freedoms that is spreading in other states.

With Much Concern,

Stephen Moody
sjmoody@hawaii.edu

From: Vince Krog
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: SB 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:45:50 PM

I would like to testify in person, but do not know if I will be notified. I'll be at the hearing but expect that testimony will run long and would appreciate knowing when I can expect to speak.

DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

I do not know what "committee" this is to be submitted to. There is no way of knowing that from your publication found at :
http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/splsession2013b/Hearing%20JDL%2010-28-13.pdf

My testimony:

I propose something not overly popular for either side. A compromise.
Strip "Marriage" of all economic benefits.
Leave "Marriage" defined as it has been for centuries.
Transfer all economic benefits to a civil union. Married couples wanting the benefits can also go file for a union.

Much as it was known that Civil Unions would lead to Gay Marriage, it is also known that Gay Marriage will result in forcing churches to perform marriages they disagree with or close their doors. It is occasionally the stance that couples must go through training to be married by a church, and organizations this careful will be forced to perform marriages for unknown gay couples or face discrimination accusations.

Do not force churches to perform marriages "under God" when you are not honoring their beliefs in God. That is under "state". Let them continue to perform weddings for marriages as they have always been defined.
Thank you
Vince Krog

From: Nolan Yogi
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Oral Testimony on Senate Bill No. 1 Re: Same Sex Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:29:48 PM

I would like to present oral testimony in regard to the above described Bill on October 28, 2013 at any time selected by your Committee.

Nolan K. Yogi
92-1034 Makakilo Drive, No. 26
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

Sent from Windows Mail

From: Sumner La Croix
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Impact of Marriage Equality on Hawaii"s Economy--SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:13:56 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

From: Sumner La Croix

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My testimony covers the impact of marriage equality on Hawai'i's economy over the 2014-2016 period. I am a Professor with the Dept. of Economics, UH-Mānoa, and a Research Fellow with the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization, UH-Mānoa. In February 2013, I prepared a report (with

- The number of Hawai‘i same-sex couples likely to marry over the 2014-2016 period;

- Additional tourism and wedding industry spending triggered by weddings and marriage celebrations of Hawai‘i and US couples and honeymoons of US couples;

- The number of same-sex spouses who would elect to be covered as a spousal beneficiary on their spouse's employer-provided health insurance.

We updated our report in July 2013 to reflect the two US Supreme Court rulings in the California Proposition 8 case and the DOMA case. Our conclusion is that the two decisions open the door to big flows of new spending in the Hawai‘i tourism and wedding industries over the 2014-2016 period if Hawai‘i were to enact marriage equality. We expect that marriage equality in Hawai‘i would bring US same-sex couples, guests of US same-sex couples, and guests of Hawai‘i same-sex couples to Hawai‘i to marry, celebrate a marriage or honeymoon. More specific conclusions follow.

- The U.S. Supreme Court's decision allowing same-sex marriage to resume in California is particularly important for Hawai‘i's tourism industry, as the addition of California increases the proportion of Hawai‘i's visitors from states with marriage equality from 18 percent to 54 percent. We estimate $167 million in additional spending over the 2014-2016 period by same-sex couples from states with marriage equality (and their guests) visiting Hawai‘i to marry, celebrate their marriage or honeymoon.

- The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the DOMA case has opened the door to a limited set of federal rights for all same-sex couples regardless of whether the couple lives in a state with marriage equality. Same-sex couples from states without marriage equality can travel to another state with marriage equality to marry and thereby gain access to the limited set of federal rights. Some of these couples would choose to marry and/or honeymoon in Hawai‘i if Hawaii enacted marriage equality. Including spending from marriages and honeymoons of same-sex couples from states without marriage equality increases total additional spending to $217 million over the 2014-2016 period.

- We estimate that marriage equality in Hawai‘i will likely increase State of Hawai‘i and City and County of Honolulu general excise tax revenues by $10.2 million over the 2014-2016 period. State income tax revenues would also increase, but we have not estimated their exact magnitude.

- Without access to same-sex marriage in Hawai‘i, many local same-sex couples have already chosen to gain access to federal marriage rights by traveling to the U.S. mainland to marry. The absence of marriage equality in Hawai‘i raises wedding costs for Hawai‘i's same-sex couples, harms the Hawai‘i wedding industry, and diverts spending by wedding guests from Hawai‘i hotels, restaurants, retail, etc. to their counterparts in the mainland United States.

- Marriage equality in Hawai‘i should produce substantial federal tax savings for married same-sex Hawai‘i couples with a spouse as a beneficiary on the other spouse’s employer-paid health insurance. Marriage equality would also allow married Hawai‘i same-sex couples to become eligible to draw spousal benefits from a number of federal programs, including social security.

The full report, “The Impact of Marriage Equality on Hawai‘i’s Economy and Government: An Update After the U.S. Supreme Court’s Same-Sex Marriage Decisions,” can be downloaded at http://www.uhero.Hawai‘i.edu/assets/LaCroix.Gabriel.MEUpdate.FINAL.pdf.

Sumner La Croix
2333 Kapiolani Blvd. #3010
Honolulu, HI 96826

Submitted Testimony

Date: 25 October, 2013

To: Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Measure: SB 1 – Relating to equal rights

Hearing: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30am

From: Mark Wolfersberger
Hauula, Hawaii

I OPPOSE bill SB1 – Relating to Equal Rights for the following reasons:

First, gay marriage is a serious issue that has the potential to redefine the fabric of our society. Thus, it deserves serious thought and input from all areas of our society here in Hawaii. By calling a special session, the governor is attempting to bypass the serious debate that this issue deserves. Let's not legislate by edict from the governor. Rather, let's legislate from the will of the people.

Second, because of the gravity of this issue, it should be decided by the people. In 1998, the people of Hawaii demonstrated their desire to carefully consider this issue by passing Constitutional Amendment 2. This amendment paved the way for the issue of same-sex marriage to be debated and decided by the legislature, and by extension, the people of Hawaii rather than the courts of Hawaii (e.g. *Baehr v. Lewin*, 1993). The governor's hasty introduction of Bill SB1 – Relating to Equal Rights and the special session that he has called is an affront to Hawaii voters and the trust that the voters demonstrated in the Hawaii State Legislature by passing Constitutional Amendment 2. Again, let's not legislate by edict from the governor.

Third, as clearly stated in the bill's introduction, Bill SB1 was introduced as a bandwagon reaction to the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that declared portions of the federal *Defense of Marriage Act* unconstitutional. This court decision has relevance in states that have already passed laws for gay marriage: it is not relevant in states that have not passed such laws. Until the legislature and people of Hawaii debate this issue and make a decision, the U.S. Supreme Court decision has no impact on Hawaii. Let's not allow distant federal courts to impact serious local decisions in our state. Again, let's allow the people of Hawaii to have a proper debate of the issues and make a determination.

Finally, I have heard a number of people referring to the gay marriage as a civil rights issue similar to slavery and women's suffrage. I hope none of our legislators believe in these misguided comparisons. During slavery, African-Americans were bought and sold as a man's property. This was an issue of human trafficking and is morally

reprehensible. Gay marriage is not an issue of gays being bought and sold as another man's property. Women's suffrage was an issue of fair representation in government. Gays have not been denied the right to vote. In stark contrast to slavery and women's suffrage, the issue of gay marriage is a question of redefining families, which are the most basic unit of our society. This potential redefinition could have a far-reaching impact that goes well beyond the federal financial benefits that the bill's introduction uses as a rationale.

In conclusion, this issue deserves serious consideration by the state legislature and people. Please vote "NO" and give our state the time that it needs on this issue.

Submission to
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Re: SB1
RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
Recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex.
Extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits,
protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex
couples receive.

Pending Introduction and Referral to JDL

DATE:	**Monday, October 28, 2013**
TIME:	**10:30 a.m.**
PLACE:	Auditorium State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Request to submit in person has been made.

Effect of Same Sex Marriage on the Education System in Ontario, Canada

Submitted by:

Phil Lees, Educator, Ontario, Canada

At the request of Representative Gene Ward

Contents

Introductory Letter ..... p. 3

Executive Summary ..... p. 4 - 6

Detailed submission..... p. 7 - 18

Re: SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

Recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex.extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

Dear Senator Clayton Hee, Senator Maile S. L. Shimbukuro, and elected members of the State of Hawaii;

As you consider this important legislation, I want to thank you for the opportunity to share the effects same sex marriage has had on the education system in Ontario.

In 2005 Canada approved same sex marriage and as an educator I experienced the change that took place in our education system. As an educator (teacher, consultant, teacher certification instructor, and consultant/curriculum and policy writer for the Ministry of Education) I experienced the change. In 2009 I left education to assist faith families who have children in the public school system where the school environment has become increasingly challenging and at times hostile to people of faith. I attempt to work with schools, school boards, and churches to build understanding within school boards of the needs of the faith community who send their child to the public education system.

At the request of Representative Gene Ward, and pastors from the state of Hawaii, I have been touring the entire state sharing how the families, with children In the education systems in Ontario, Canada, have been impacted since the passage of same sex marriage in Canada.

It has been a privilege to speak with more than 3000 attendees (so far) at the meetings, share on radio and tv programs, present at the legislature information hearing and meet with numerous Representatives of the House and Senate. I have been asked by the attendees/citizens of this fine state, particularly the citizens on the out islands of Molokai, Kauai, Maui, who do not have the resources to get to the office in the state house, to share with you their concerns;

- this legislation will change thousands of years of indigenous culture
- the special session does not allow for enough time for citizens to be involved in the process, and they find that to be undemocratic

What I share, colleagues in other jurisdictions (Britain, Australia, Tazmania, and various US states) confirm experiencing a similar a pattern of effect in their state, province, or country.

Pages 6 – 18 are a summary of images, along with some explanatory note, from the power point that I have shared. For the purposes of the hearing I have limited the content to the 'effect on the system'. While touring the beautiful islands of Hawaii, many have shared that much of this is now present in your schools.

In addition to the more detailed report please find an executive summary, pages 3 - 5.

Thank you for the privilege to share. It is my hope that the legislators will be able to find a way to meet the needs of the LGBT community, the faith community, and the rest of the citizens of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Phil Lees

Executive Summary

Effect of Same Sex Marriage on the Education System in Ontario, Canada

Sensitive curriculum in schools is not new. Just as in Hawaii, before same sex marriage, Ontario had some, limited, sensitive curriculum: some novels, comprehensive sex ed programs. However, most of the sensitive materials were supplementary materials and the school worked with the parents, informing and accommodating families.

The approval of same sex marriage in Canada was the tipping point for curriculum change.

All schools must now:

- offer Gay Straight Alliance Clubs (middle and seconday),
- integrate into all subjects and grade levels affirmative LGBT lifestyle messaging and activities
- School facilities are only to be rented to organizations that operate within the provincial code of conduct (state sanctioned code written by the Ontario Human Rights Commission).

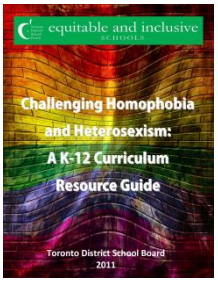
As a result of SSM, school districts have ruled parents do **not have the right to know about sensitive curriculum** taught in the classrooms, even if it conflicts with their family and faith values.

A striking example of this is Mr. & Mrs. Toruloukis, parents of children in kindergarten and grade 2, who requested advanced notice when planned curriculum (lessons, assemblies, planned activities) involving their children, dealt with content his faith teaches to abstain from (e,g., moral relativism, occultic principles and practices, instruction on sex education, instruction affirming alternative sexual lifestyles). To this request the school told them they will not inform him. The school system is working to create an inclusive environment, and to accommodate his request would be an endorsement of discrimination.

S. Tourloukis – must challenge school decision in court.

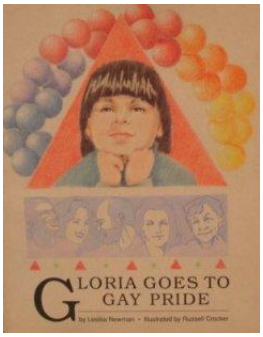
> "The response from the Hamilton school board to Mr. Toruloukis's request was he does not have the right to know about such sensitive curriculum. With this statement, the school board is saying to the family, *"The reason parents have children is to provide raw materials for the government systems to mould and shape into politically correct products, based upon the embraced norms and values that the public institution deems appropriate, and convenient, at the time."* Phil Lees, Open Letter

A teacher resource document entitled, Challenging Homophobia and Heterosexism- A K – 12 Curriculum Resource Guide, has 12 sample lessons at each level **modelling for teachers how to integrate positive LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender) messages throughout the K- Gr. 12 curriculum.**



In the FAQ section (p. 9 & 10) - Teachers are told not to inform families of sensitive curriculum – e.g. same sex instruction. It further tells teachers, parents are not allowed to remove their children from such sessions. In addition teachers are told that their freedom of conscience and religion will not be honored. They must implement the program, even if it is in conflict with your faith/conscience.

Since Same Sex Marriage Approval – sample lessons



1) Any Primary Grade

-Teacher reads a book such as "Gloria Goes to Gay Pride"
-Teacher discusses different kinds of love and families.
- Magazines with pictures of gay and lesbian couples are provided
- Children make a collage of pictures of different kinds of love and families (men passionately kissing men and women passionately kissing women)
- Collages are used to decorate class during Gay Pride Week and transgender day.

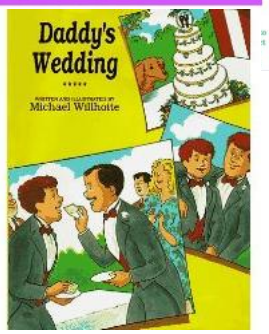
2) Gr. 2 Unit – Both/And

Students are taught that their gender has more to do with clothes you wear, and activities in which you participate

In a Toronto Sun news article entitled, 'Warmington: Serious Gender Bender,' dated October 16, 2013, writer Joe Warmington began his article with: "There are no rules for being a boy or a girl" — slogan on a TDSB poster. So now the Toronto District School Board is telling kids they don't have to be boys or girls?"

read the full article at:

http://www.torontosun.com/2012/09/24/warmington-serious-genderbender



3) Gr. 3 Mock SSM Ceremony

The teacher reads a story like "Daddy's Wedding, or the King & King" and talks about marriage can be between two people of the same sex. Some classrooms then participate in a mock same sex mass wedding ceremony, and then celebrate with cake and ice cream.

4) Anal and Oral Sex

7th and 8th grade sex ed curriculum includes information about conception and heterosexual activity (anal and oral sex). Education officials have stated, "To not discriminate against LGBT, the new curriculum includes references to homosexual sex."

Education After Same Sex Marriage…

- Sexual lifestyle messaging integrated into all subjects, all grade levels
- GSA Clubs mandatory (high schools and middle schools)
- Faith Clubs are often not allowed – because their values discriminate against GSA
- Parental requests to be informed about sensitive curriculum - not respected
- Diplomatic disagreement in classrooms (student and teacher) even when supported with medical evidence, is considered homophobia
- Teachers are told there are no religious accommodations for them on the job
- Students are allowed to use the washroom, change room, and shower facilities that are consistent with their gender, not their anatomical sex

Conclusion

The people of Ontario are feeling the effects of 'Reverse Discrimination', which is allowed under EQUITY programs. The greatest concern is that equity trumps our other constitutional rights.

Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms lists the following as fundamental freedoms:

1. freedom of conscience and religion;
2. freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;
3. freedom of peaceful assembly; and
4. freedom of association.

Since same sex marriage each of these freedoms has been severely limited in schools:

Freedom of Conscience and religion – teachers and students must participate in, and be offended by programs that are not consistent with their conscience and religion.

Freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression – some jurisdictions are telling students and staff are told even diplomatic communication of opinion, belief, and thought, even when backed with evidence is not allowed.

Freedom of peaceful assembly and association – students are not allowed to have faith clubs, or meet at the flag pole to pray. Citizens who are part of a faith group are discouraged from renting school facilities.

To avoid such losses of freedom in Hawaii, I am recommending, and the citizens of Hawaii are asking that elected representatives slow this process down, do a study of the long term effects (positive and negative) of same sex marriage, including input from all stakeholders. Then, legislatively ensure protections for all citizens.

Respectfully submitted

Phil Lees

PO Box 306

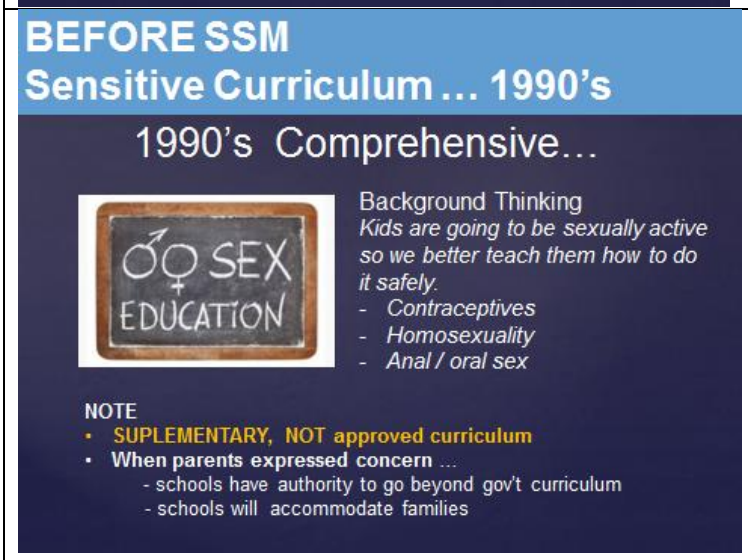
Binbrook, On

L0R 1P0

What happened to the education system as a result of SSM? Before / After

1980's - 2004 Before Same Sex Marriage

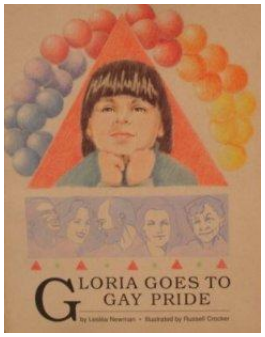
1980's – Some Offensive Novels Sensitive curriculum is not new. In the 1980's there were some novels that some parents found offensive. When parents or the student expressed concern, they were accommodated with an alternative novel.



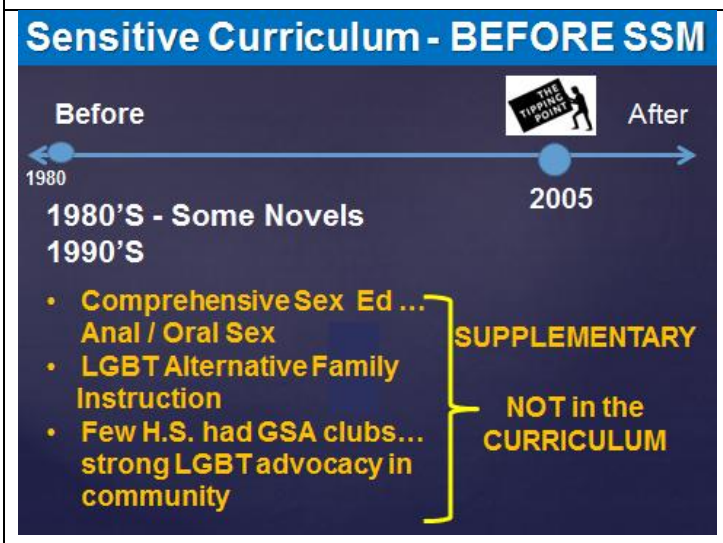
1990's Comprehensive Sex Education
Not required curriculum, but teacher unions, teacher training through the training facilities recommended additional curriculum. The background thinking was, children *are going to be sexually active so we better teach them how to do it safely. At this time, teachers who felt this additional information should be added to the curriculum would provide information about*

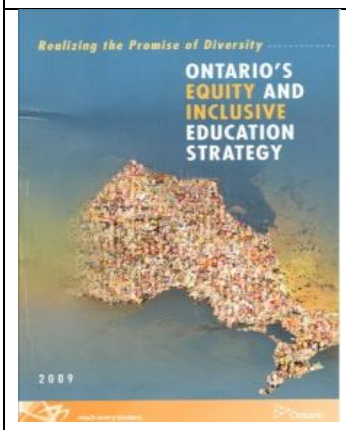
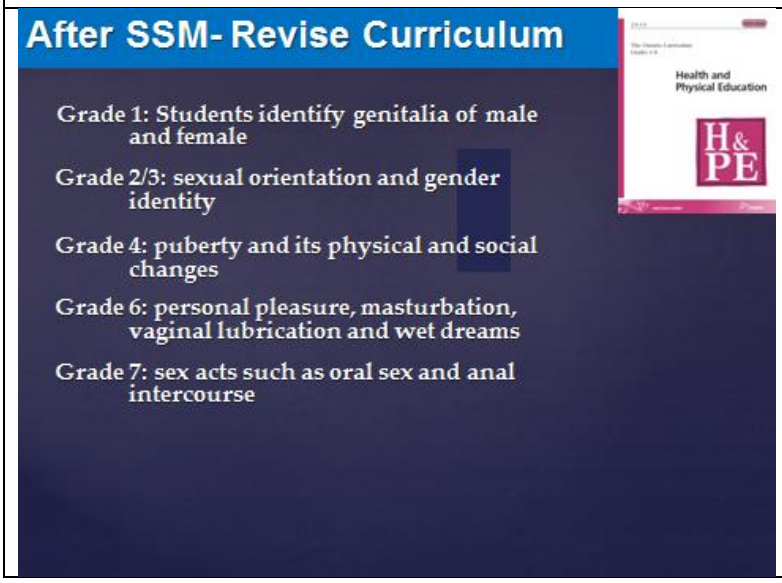
- *Contraceptives*
- *Homosexuality, Anal / oral sex*

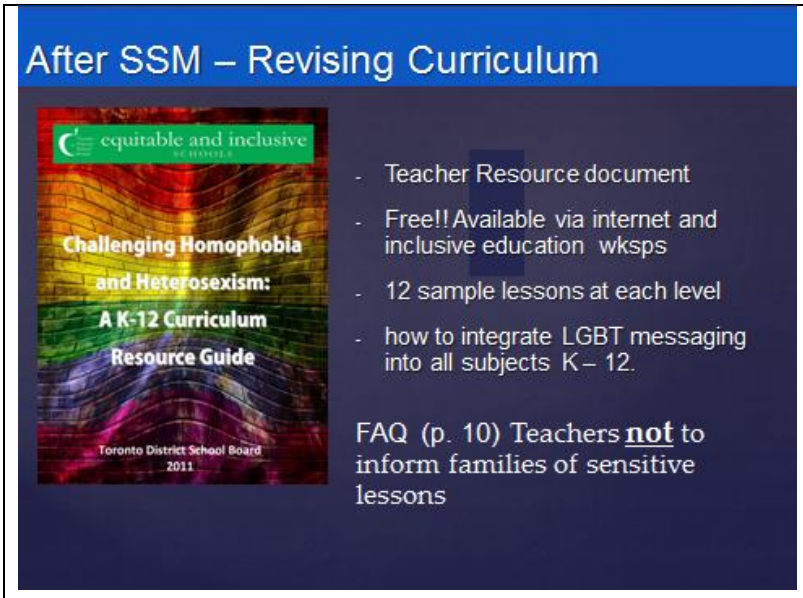
Parents were accommodated and just like in Hi, schools were required to send a letter home informing families of sensitive curriculum.



2000 – Affirmative LGBT story books integrated into the classroom
Again this was supplementary material that teachers would bring into the classroom. Primary grade teachers were exposed to this type of material through a training video titled, "Its Elementary". Such books were considered sensitive by many faith families because it presents concepts to their children that conflicts with the teaching of the home. Parents who asked to be informed about such instruction were accommodated and informed so that parents could talk to their children about how this information applies to them as a child of faith being raised in a secular, multi-worldview society. Parents were respected and

	accommodated.
	Sensitive issues in schools prior to SSM was limited to some novels and supplementary curriculum brought into the classrooms if the teacher thought it was a good idea. Very little was mandated in curriculum. Parents who asked to be informed and accommodated, their wishes were respectfully addressed. Just like Hi, The Ministry of Education had a policy requiring families to be informed before sexual health curriculum was being covered since this is sensitive curriculum.
2005 – Canadian Courts Affirm Same Sex Marriage	
2006 – 2008 – School Boards were mandated to implement sexual orientation policies	Sexual Orientation Policies were designed to "ensure that all policies, guidelines, procedures and practices including but not limited to classroom practices, day-to-day operations and communication practices, are anti-homophobic and anti-heterosexist." (See sample school board sexual orientation policy at http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Sexual-Orientation-Directive.pdf) These policies led curriculum considerations including integration of affirmative sexual alternative lifestyle messaging. This became a very controversial stage as the more urban school boards would bring in experts on the issue. The approach taken by the academic experts was often more of "imposing change" rather than desiring to work together with others in the community to develop a co-operative plan to recognize the needs of this group and build an environment that within the community.
2009 - Bill 157 **Safety In Schools Act**	Requires schools and school boards to build positive relations with the LGBT community. This is only a concern when special interest groups are using this

	as an opportunity to influence inside the school. And this has happened in some schools. Principal's responsibilities – New requirements include principals must report to parents when a child has been seriously bullied, unless, in the principal's assessment doing so would not be positive. The terminology used during teacher seminars is, "if the principal is concerned the parent may not honor the feelings of the child". Then the principal is to send the child to positive homosexual counselling without informing the parent. See video link http://bill157.apandrose.com/en_CA/principals/
	**2009 – Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy** This document is a terms of reference document for revising all curriculum to make it more inclusive. There have been many concerns with the document, the most significant being the document has specific examples of how we will accommodate and respect the LGBT community, but explanation about accommodating other more traditional communities is lacking.
	**2010 – Health Curriculum** Sexual health units were of concern to traditional parents. So much so that the curriculum was pulled just before an election. The controversial components that were supplementary information became mandated. New premier has promised to ramp it up and further ramp up implementation of LGBT integrated curriculum



This teacher resource document has 12 samples activities at each learning level to guide teachers on how to integrate LGBT messaging at each learning level.

Although produced by the TDSB, it is the exemplar referenced by the Min. of Ed., teacher unions, and LGBT presenters instructing as part of inclusive education seminars.

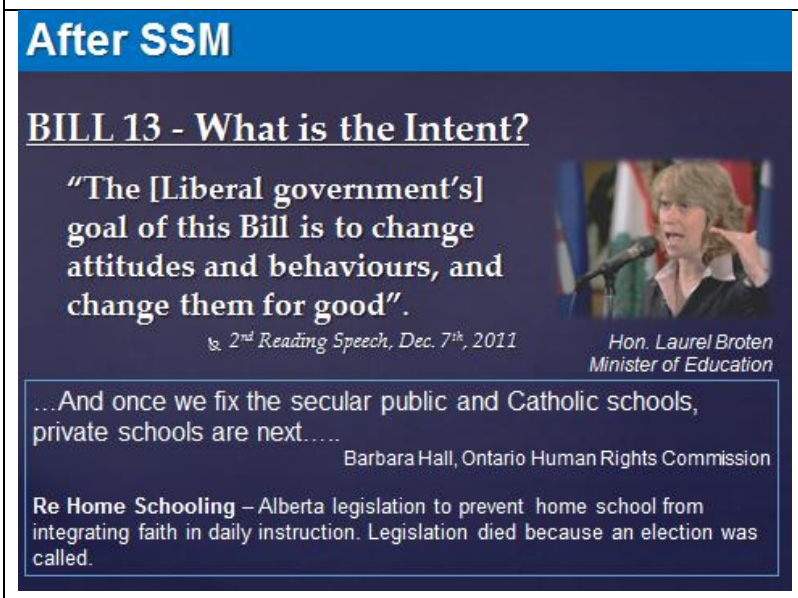
Freely downloadable on the internet

Page 10 Frequently Asked Questions

``Should schools send notes or permission slips home before starting any classroom work on LGBT Issues**?**
Answer - No

Can a parent Have their child accommodated Out …?
Answer – No

Can teachers seek accommodation from teaching materials that may contradict their religious beliefs?
Answer – No.



Bill 13 Accepting Schools Act passes in the Ontario Provincial Legislature.

During her second reading speech, Minister of Education Laurel Broten, made it very clear, the reason for bullying of gays in our schools was because of the norm and values of society, and "the goal of his Bill is to change attitudes and behaviours and change them for good.

Barbara Hall, Ontario Human Rights Commissioner also stated, once public and Catholic schools are fixed private schools will be next.

At the same time, the Alberta government was pushing through legislation to limit homeschoolers from using materials that refer to their faith during instruction time – bill died on the floor because and election was called**.**

To change the traditional norms and values of society, the A.S. Act is structured with 3 strategies targeting this goal.
1) Student Club Activities – which affirm the sexual lifestyle direction

2) Sexual-Lifestyle curriculum (K – Gr 12) – which integrates into each subject positive LGBT messages.

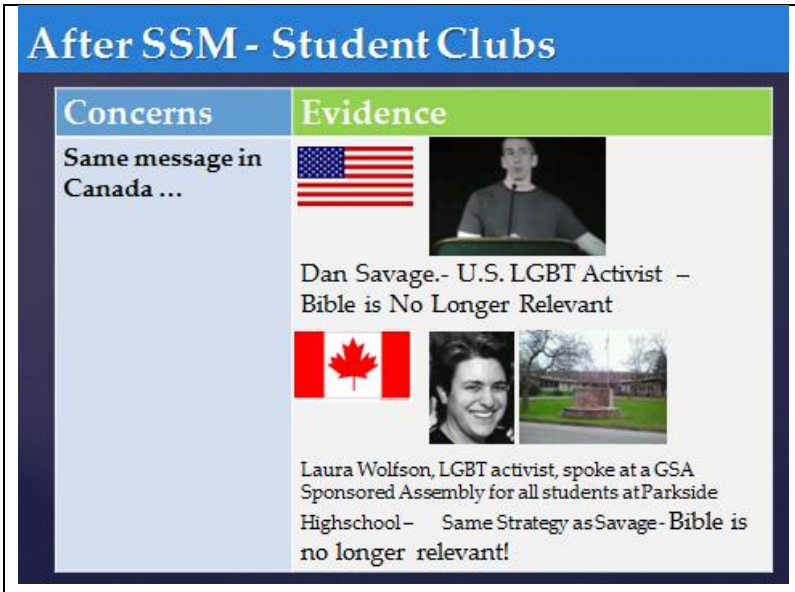
3)Rental agreements limited to entities that abide by the provincial code of conduct – ie. churches will park their faith/values at the door.

GSA Clubs mandated in every school.

Bill 13 states,
Every board shall support pupils who want to establish and lead activities and organizations …
(d) activities or organizations that promote the awareness and understanding of, and respect for, people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, including organizations with the name gay-straight alliance or another name.

Will GSA Clubs be used to undermine the values of traditional-minded students?

Well, I guess we should examine how they are, or could be used.
First of all, let's look at the leading US LGBT activist, Dan Savage, a high school GSA club promoter, and the founder of the "It Get's Better Project" is seen here speaking to an assembly of high school students ….
See
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ao0k9qDsOvs



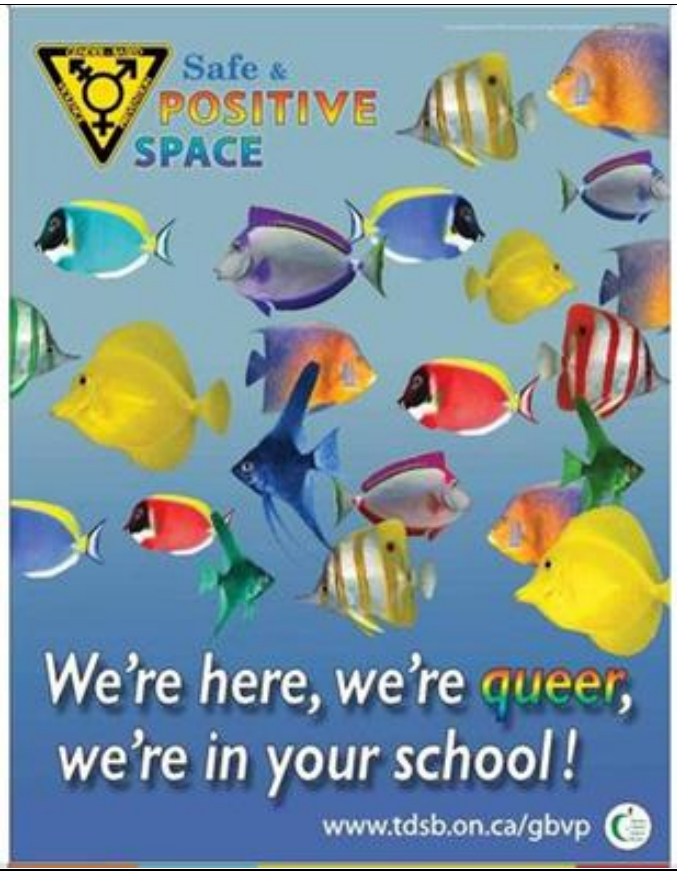
The same approach taken by Savage, was reported to be employed by a speaker, Laura Wolfson at Parkside High School.

See article http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/ontario-school-hosts-school-wide-gsa-assembly-gay-speaker-re-interprets-bib/

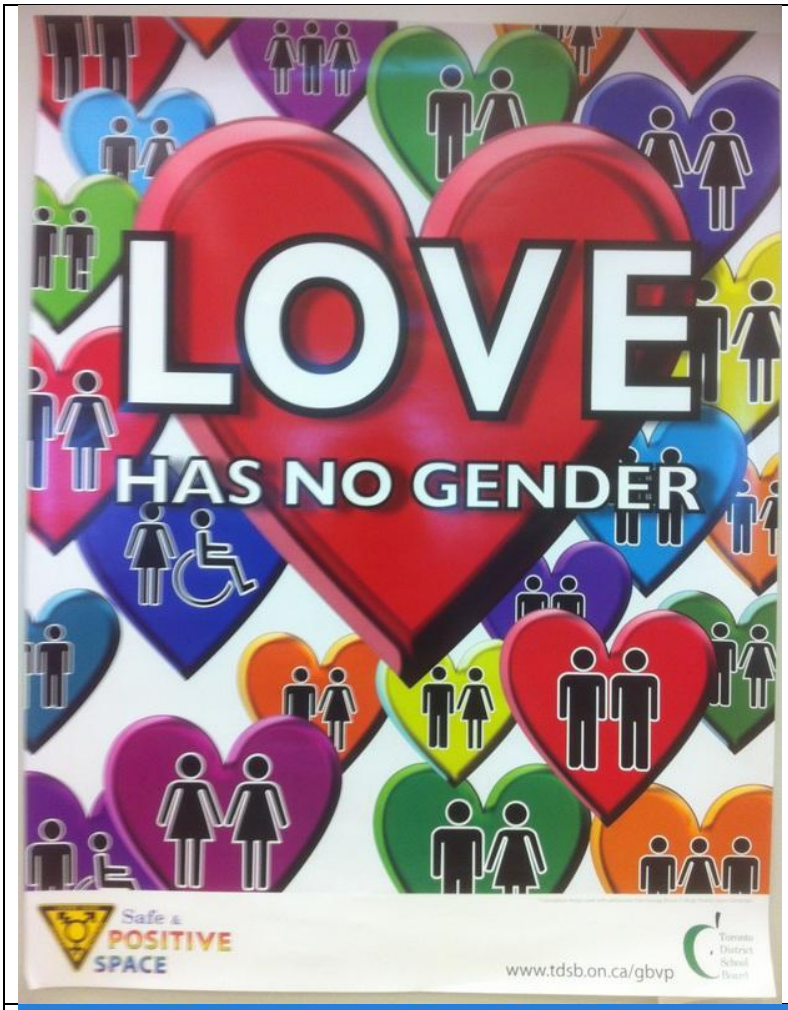
The incident, as reported in Lifesite News, was not denied by the local school board, was similar in approach to the Savage presentation, where the speaker used a negative interpretation of Old testament Scripture to claim that scripture is no longer relevant, and undermines the values of traditional-minded Christians to defend the position of homosexuals, bisexuals, and other alternative sexual lifestyles.

Students in school have also reported:

- Over promotion … GSA club is announced every day on the announcements, and posters in every corner in halls, rainbow door hangers on many classroom doors, etc.
- GSA club members sell promotional materials (rainbow bracelets at lunch) when a student does not purchase they have been called 'homophobe'



Sample posters in schools

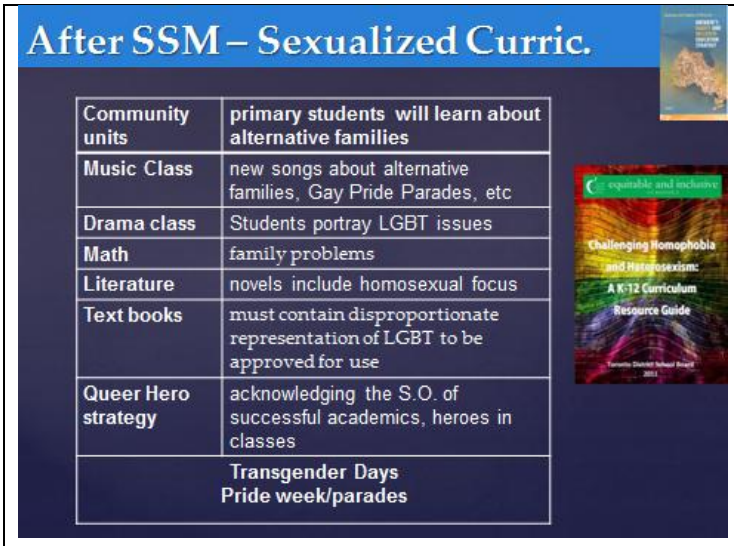


Sample posters in schools

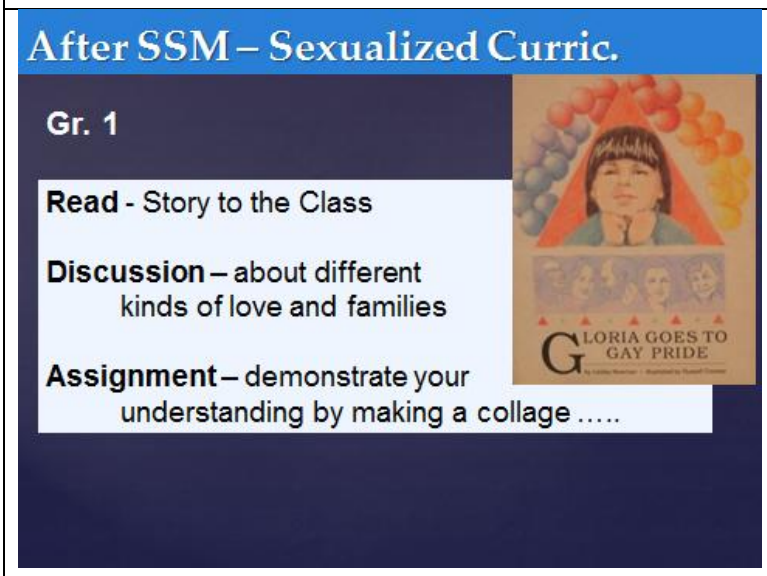
The instruction in the document is based upon the Banks Continuum. Which proposes that teachers will transform children's values through properly planned and orchestrated attitude conditioning activities.

A poster from the 2009 BC Teachers Federation Conference clearly demonstrates the goal, to change children's attitudes from merely tolerating and accepting people who are different to getting them to support, admire, appreciate, and celebrate those values.

I would like to share with you a series of activities that demonstrate a progression of attitude conditioning.



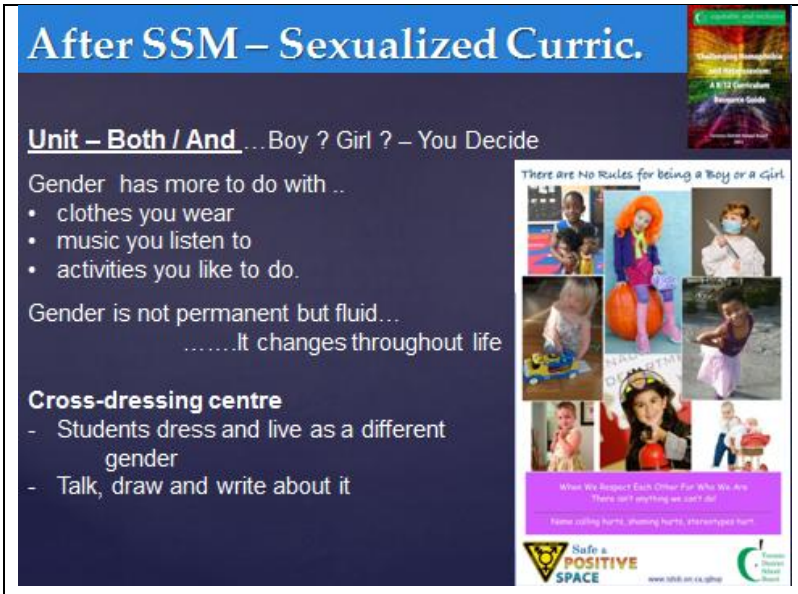
People often ask, how can this be integrated into all subjects, every grade level?
Community units… primary students will learn about alternative families
Music Class …new songs about alternative families, attending Gay Pride Parades, etc
Pride week/parades in schools
Drama class assignments portraying LGBT issues
Math class problems will include alternative family situations
Queer Hero strategy – Ministry of Ed term meaning the sexual orientation of successful academics and heroes will be revealed if they are other than heterosexual.
Literature – novels to include homosexual focus



Sample Lesson

Grades 1, 2, 3 teachers are recommended to read a book such as "Gloria Goes to Gay Pride". Then the teacher engages the children in a discussion about different kinds of love and families.
To demonstrate their learning students are to cut make a collage by cutting out pictures from magazines about different kinds of love, different families, and Gay Pride Parades (children are told Gay Pride is a celebration of different kinds of families).

Collages can be used to decorate the class for pride week, where classes will be judged on transgender day.



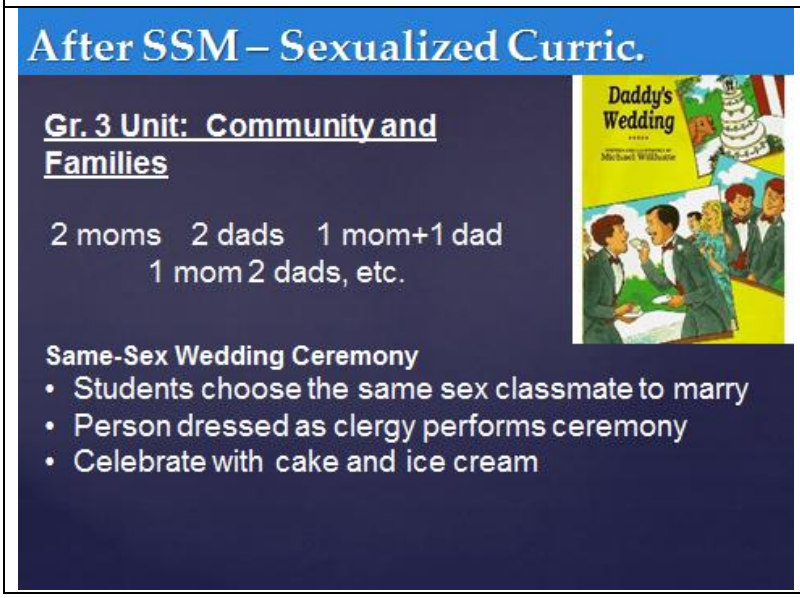
UNIT – BOTH / AND

Children are introduce to Gender Fluidity.
Read a book about a person who like likes to try different clothes and activities.

In this unit children learn Gender has more to do with your interests, the clothes you where, the activities you like to do.
Your gender is not permanent and you may change your gender as you progress through life.
Students are exposed to a Cross-dressing centre where

- Students encouraged to dress and live as a person of a different gender
- Boys pretend to be a girl
- Girls pretend to be a boy

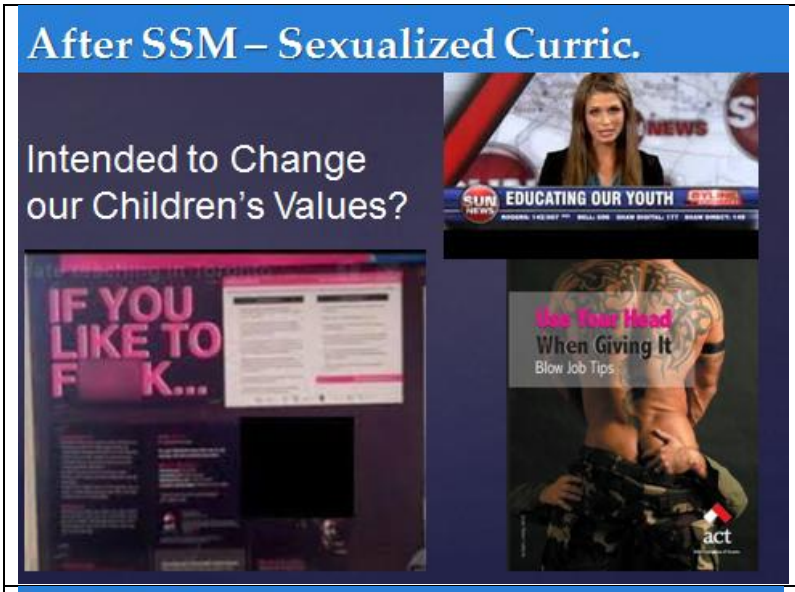
And then share how they feel.



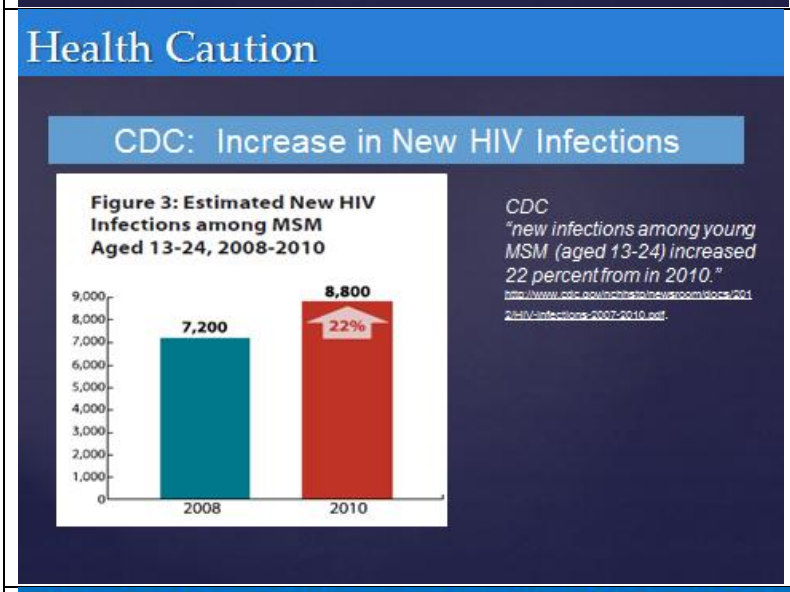
Grade 3 Teacher reads Daddy's Wedding, We have a discussion about different kinds of family structures (multiple dads, moms, etc.).

Wouldn't it be great to marry a best friend. If you could do that who would you marry. Find someone of the same sex you would like to marry, ask them.

A person dressed as clergy, officiates the mass SSM ceremony, and students celebrate with cake and ice cream.

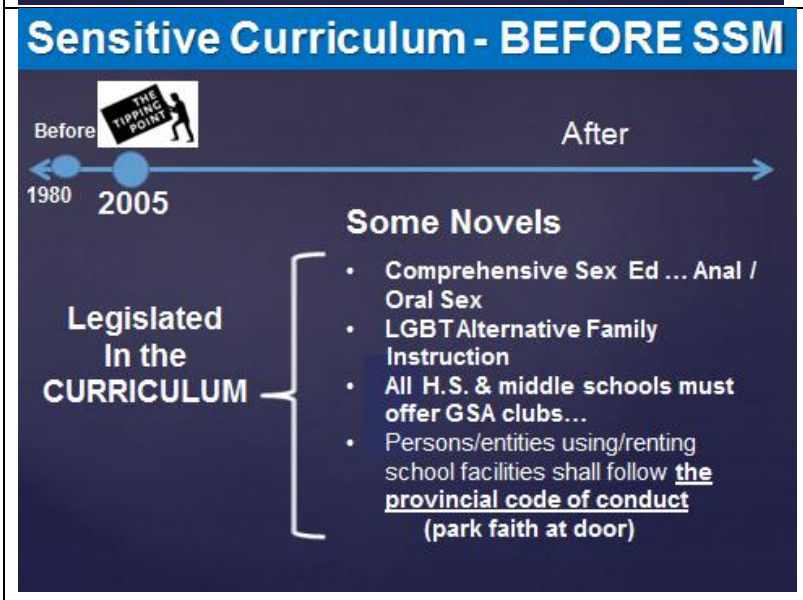


This poster was found on the bulletin board in a grade 7 classroom. When found school board and some parents defended the teacher, stating it has safe sex information.



Our public health department agrees that as we expose students, it does lead to increased sexual activity. The school is not advocating for children to have sex, but we found that as you expose it does lead to increased activity.

My concern is that Centre for disease control stats show *"new infections among young MSM (aged 13-24) increased 22 percent."* http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/docs/2012/HIV-Infections-2007-2010.pdf.



With the passage of same sex marriage has led to the following:

Direct Effects

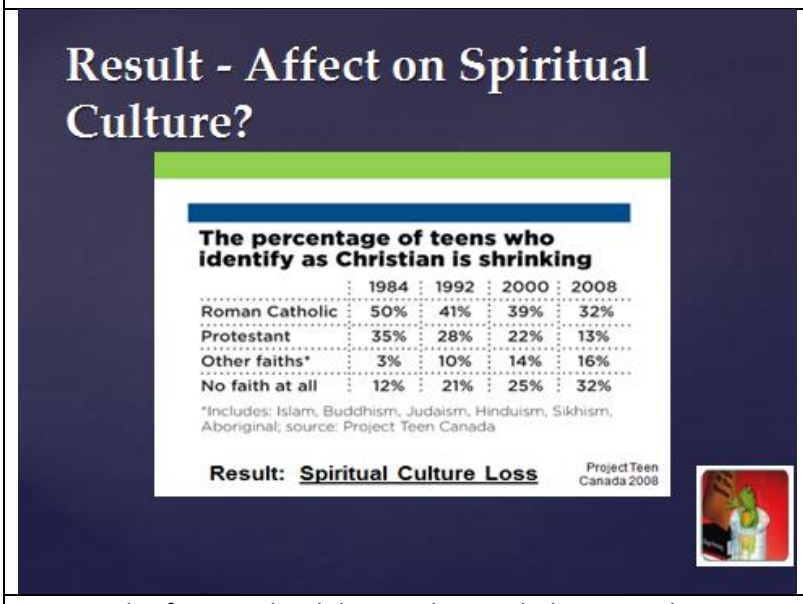
- Mandate GSA Clubs
- Sexual lifestyle messaging integrated all subjects all grade levels
- Persons/entities using/renting school facilities shall park their faith/doctrine at the door follow **the provincial code of conduct**

Indirect Effects

- Students requesting to organize a faith clubs are often refused because the assumed values are not consistent with GSA
- Student/staff diplomatic disagreement in classrooms, even during health class

discussions where a student provides medical evidence to caution will be considered homophobia.

- Parental rights to be informed about sensitive curriculum is being removed
- Washroom/change room use in some school boards is now based on gender identity
- Increased sexual experimentation by students
- Teachers/students (and I) – have been told we are to park our faith at the school entrance and put on the faith/cloak of the Ontario Human Rights Commission's provincial code of conduct – what happened to freedom of religion, and conscience?



People of faith have expressed concern because over the same period of time (1980s – Post SSM) there has been a significant spiritual culture loss. Faith communities desire to have the same consideration as the LGBT community.

BUT – Equity does not mean equality. Equity means we can put in place policies, procedure, legislation to address a disadvantaged group, even if it discriminates against the majority.

As a result of SSM, school districts have ruled parents do **not have the right to know about sensitive curriculum** taught in the classrooms, even if it conflicts with their family and faith values.

S. Tourloukis – must challenge school decision in court.

A striking example of this is Mr. & Mrs. Toruloukis, parents of children in grades kindergarten and grade 2, who requested advance notice when planned curriculum (lessons, assemblies, planned activities) involving his child, dealt with content his faith teaches to abstain (e,g., moral relativism, occultic principles and practices, instruction on sex education, instruction affirming alternative sexual lifestyles). To his request the school told him, "they will not inform him. The school system is working to create an inclusive environment and to accommodate his request would be an endorsement of discrimination. "

See link about this story.
http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/christian-dad-fighting-for-parental-rights-smeared-in-local-press

Conclusion

The people of Ontario are feeling the effects of 'Reverse Discrimination', which is allowed under EQUITY programs.

The greatest concern is that equity trumps our other constitutional rights.

Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and freedoms lists the following as fundamental freedoms:

5. freedom of conscience and religion;
6. freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;
7. freedom of peaceful assembly; and
8. freedom of association.

However, since same sex marriage each of these freedoms has been severely limited in school:

Freedom of Conscience and religion – teachers and students must participate in, and be offended by programs that are not consistent with their conscience and religion.

Freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression – some jurisdictions are telling students and staff are told even diplomatic communication of opinion, belief, and thought, even when backed with evidence is not allowed.

Freedom of peaceful assembly and association – students are not allowed to have faith clubs, or meet at the flag pole to pray. Citizens who are part of a faith group are discouraged from renting school facilities.

To avoid such losses of freedom, the people are asking elected representatives to slow this process down, and let's do a study of the long term effects (positive and negative) of same sex marriage, and legislatively ensure protections for all citizens.

Respectfully submitted

Phil Lees

PO Box 306

Binbrook, On

L0R 1P0

Testimony before the Hawai‘i Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Regarding S.B. 1

October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

By Dr. John C. Eastman

Henry Salvatori Professor of Law & Community Service
Dale E. Fowler School of Law at Chapman University;
Chairman, National Organization for Marriage[1]

Presented In Person

[1] For identification purposes only. This testimony is presented in my personal capacity as a professor of constitutional law.

First, I want to congratulate the people of Hawaii for giving this important policy issue the attention it deserves, and for recognizing that it is ultimately a matter for the people to decide. Two decades ago, when your courts appeared poised to take the issue away from the people,[2] the people of this State rose up and reasserted their sovereign authority to keep control of this policy dispute. They passed, by a very large majority, a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to retain the definition of marriage as an institution of one man and one woman.[3] A year later, the Hawaii Supreme Court recognized the import of that amendment: It established one-man/one-woman marriage as the policy of this State, now reflected in the State Constitution.[4] Accordingly, the long-pending challenged to Hawaii's traditional marriage law that had been filed by three same-sex couples in 1990 was dismissed.[5]

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[2] *Baehr v. Lewin*, 74 Haw. 530, 852 P.2d 44 (1993), *reconsideration and clarification granted in part*, 74 Haw. 645, 852 P.2d 74 (1993) (holding that Hawaii's longstanding marriage law amounted to sex discrimination and could only be upheld if it survived strict scrutiny); *Baehr v. Miike*, No. 91-1394 (1st Cir. Haw.) (holding that the Hawaii marriage law failed strict scrutiny, but staying the decision pending appeal).

[3] Constitutional Amendment 2, approved November 3, 1998 by a vote of 69.2% to 28.6%. Hawaii Office of Elections, General Election 1998, available at http://hawaii.gov/elections/results/1998/general/98swgen.htm. The amendment is now codified at Haw. Const. Art. I, § 23.

[4] *Baehr v. Miike*, No. 20371 (Haw. S.Ct. Dec. 9, 1999).

[5] *Id.*

By asserting its constitutional authority in this manner, the people of this State recognized what courts in a half dozen other states have failed to appreciate. This is not a civil rights issue, but an important issue of social policy that should be left to the people to decide.

And because the consequences of radically redefining such a core social institution as marriage are likely to be profound, I strongly urge you not to make this decision simply in the legislative halls, but refer it to a statewide vote of the people, as you did a decade and a half ago with Amendment 2.

Let me explain why this decision is so profoundly important. The basic contention that this is a civil rights issue is that homosexual couples are being denied the equal protection of the law by not being given access to an institution that heterosexual couples have access to. The very title of the proposed statute—"the Hawaii Marriage *Equality* Act of 2013" (emphasis added)—rests on that proposition. But the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution and the idea of equality that it codifies have always required that people who are *similarly situated* be treated similarly. The guidestar for determining whether people are similarly situated is the purpose of the classification or institution to which they are seeking equal access. Thus, to answer the equality question, we must consider first and foremost the purposes of marriage, and why society has invested so much in it. If, has been the case for millenia, marriage is the institution which channels the

unique procreative abilities of men and women into something that is societally beneficial, then homosexual and heterosexual relationships are simply not similarly situated with respect to that purpose. By redefining Marriage to treat these dissimilar relationships as though they were the same, therefore, you will necessarily move the institution away from that core and societally beneficial purpose.

But you need not take my word for it. In the litigation over California's Proposition 8, which like your Amendment 2 defined marriage in the traditional way as an institution of one man and one woman, evidence to that effect was introduced from *proponents* of redefining marriage to include same-sex couples. Plaintiffs' own expert in the case, Professor Nancy Cott of Harvard, admitted during her trial testimony that redefining marriage to include same-sex couples would profoundly alter that institution.[6] Yale Law School Professor William Eskridge, a prominent gay rights activist, explained in a book that was introduced into evidence *by Plaintiffs* that "enlarging the concept [of marriage] to embrace same-sex couples would necessarily transform it into something new."[7]

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[6] See *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, Trial Tr. 268.

[7] William N. Eskridge, Jr. & Darren R. Spedale, GAY MARRIAGE: FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE? WHAT WE'VE LEARNED FROM THE EVIDENCE 19 (2006) (*Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, Plaintiff's Ex. #2342).

These "new" and "profound" changes are not good. As Professor Andrew Cherlin of Johns Hopkins University, a same-sex marriage supporter, noted in an article of his also introduced into evidence, same-sex marriage is "the most recent development in the deinstitutionalization of marriage," which he defines as the "weakening of the social norms that define people's behavior in … marriage."[8] Indeed, as other advocates for redefining marriage to include same-sex relationships have noted, "[s]ame-sex marriage is a breathtakingly subversive idea."[9] "[C]onferring the legitimacy of marriage on homosexual relations will introduce an implicit revolt against the institution into its very heart."[10] "If same-sex marriage becomes legal, that venerable institution will ever after stand for sexual choice, for cutting the link between sex and diapers."[11]

This connection between procreation and marriage is not something unique to Americans. It has existed in every society and culture throughout human history. Let me point again to the evidence introduced during the *Perry* trial. Renowned anthropologist Claude Levi-Strauss noted, in an article introduced into evidence,

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[8] Andrew J. Cherlin, "The Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage," 66 J.MARRIAGE & FAM. 848, 848, 850 (2004) (*Perry*, Def. Ex. #49).

[9] E.J. Graff, Retying the Knot, THE NATION, June 24, 1996 at 12 (*Perry*, Defendants' Ex. #1445).

[10] Ellen Willis, contribution to "Can Marriage be Saved? A Forum," THE NATION, July 5, 2004 at 16-17.

[11] Graff, Retying the Knot, *supra*, at 12.

that "the family—based on a union, more or less durable, but socially approved, of two individuals of opposite sexes who establish a household and bear and raise children—appears to be a practically universal phenomenon, present in every type of society."[12] Marriage is thus "a social institution with a biological foundation."[13]

The great English common law writers and political theorists recognized the natural foundations of the institution of marriage. William Blackstone, when wring of the "great relations in private life," described the relationship of "husband and wife" as "founded in nature, but modified by civil society: the one directing man to continue and multiply his species, the other prescribing the manner in which that natural impulse must be confined and regulated."[14] And he described the relationship of "parent and child" as "consequential to that of marriage, being its principal end and design: it is by virtue of this relation that infants are protected, maintained, and educated."[15]

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[12] Claude Levi-Strauss, THE VIEW FROM AFAR 40-41 (1985) (*Perry*, Def. Ex. #63); see also G. Robina Quale, A HISTORY OF MARRIAGE SYSTEMS 2 (1988) (*Perry*, Def. Ex. #79) ("Marriage, as the socially recognized linking of a specific man to a specific woman and her offspring can be found in all societies").

[13] Claude Levi-Strauss, "Introduction," in Andre Burguiere, et al. (eds.), 1 A HISTORY OF THE FAMILY: DISTANT WORLDS, ANCIENT WORLDS 5 (1996).

[14] 1 WILLIAM BLACKSTONE, COMMENTARIES *410.

[15] Id.; see also id. *35 ("the establishment of marriage in all civilized states is built on this natural obligation of the father to provide for his children").

John Locke likewise wrote that marriage "is made by a voluntary compact between man and woman," and then provided essentially the same explanation of marriage's purpose has Blackstone had:

> For the end of conjunction between male and female, being not barely procreation, but the continuation of the species, this conjunction betwixt male and female ought to last, even after procreation, so long as is necessary to the nourishment and support of the young ones, who are to be sustained by those that got them, till they are able to shift and provide for themselves.[16]

Modern social science, too, confirms the importance of the connection between biology and marriage. As eminent sociologist Kingsley Davis has noted, "[t]he genius of the family system is that, through it, the society normally holds the biological parents responsible for each other and for their offspring. By identifying children with their parents … the social system powerfully motivates individuals to settle into a sexual union and take care of the ensuing offspring."[17]

Moreover, the harmful effects to children of not being raised by their biological parents is increasingly being confirmed by the social science evidence.

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[16] John Locke, SECOND TREATISE OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT §§ 78, 79 (1690).
[17] Kingsley Davis, "The Meaning & Significance of Marriage in Contemporary Society," in CONTEMPORARY MARRIAGE: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON A CHANGING INSTITUTION, at 7-8 (Kingsley Davis, ed. 1985) (DIX50).

A study published online in Demography in late 2012 by three economists, Professors Douglas W. Allen, Catherine Pakaluk, and Joseph Price, found that children raised by same-sex parents were 26% to 35% more likely to not make the same normal school progress as children raised by married heterosexual parents. They concluded: "With respect to normal school progress, children residing in same-sex households can be distinguished statistically from those in traditional married homes and in heterosexual cohabiting households."[18]

Another 2012 study, by Daniel Potter, published in the Journal of Marriage and Family, reported that children raised by same-sex parent families scored lower on Math assessment tests than their peers raised in married, biological-parent homes.[19] Mark Regnerus's important "New Family Structures Study" concluded that the scientific data "clearly reveals that children appear most apt to succeed well as adults—on multiple counts and across a variety of domains—when they spend their entire childhood with their married mother and father."[20] And a study

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[18] Douglas W. Allen, Catherine Pakaluk, & Joseph Price, *Nontradional Families and Childhood Progress Through School: A Comment on Rosenfeld*, Demography (Online) 10.1007/s13524-012-0169-x (18 November 2012), available at http://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs13524-012-0169-x (seen 15 January 2013).

[19] Daniel Potter, *Same-Sex Parent Families and Children's Academic Achievement*, 74 J. Marr. & Fam. 556, 568 (2012), available at http://www.baylorisr.org/wp-content/uploads/Potter.pdf (seen 130309) (children in same-sex parent families scored lower than their peers in married,2-biological parent households, but results can be explained by other factors).

[20] Mark Regnerus, "How different are the adult children of parents who have same-sex relationships? Findings from the New Family Structures Study," 41:4 SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH 752-770 (July 2012).

published just this Fall, based on research of a 20% sample of the 2006 Census relevant population in Canada, found that children raised by gay and lesbian couples are only about 65% as likely to graduate from high school as children from married, opposite-sex couples. Thus, children raised by gay and lesbian couples are significantly disadvantaged compared to children raised by married mom-and-dad parents.[21]

And yet, the proposed statute removes that beneficial biological connection *by design*. Section 572-C specifically provides for a "parental presumption based on marriage," thereby eliminating any connection with the actual biological connection between a man and a woman and their children. It establishes a "gender neutral" definition of marriage. Section 572-B. And it expressly deletes the important finding in existing Hawaii law regarding the determination by the people of this state "to preserve the tradition of marriage as a unique social institution based on the committed union of one man and one woman." Act, Sec. 8

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[21] See also *Perry* trial evidence: Kristin Anderson Moore, et al., Marriage From a Child's Perspective,
CHILD TRENDS RESEARCH BRIEF at 6 (June 2002) (*DIX26) ("Research clearly demonstrates that family structure matters for children, and the family structure that helps children the most is a family headed by two biological parents in a low-conflict marriage."); id. at 1-2 ("[I]t is not simply the presence of two parents, … but the presence of two biological parents that seems to support children's development."); Wendy D. Manning & Kathleen A. Lamb, Adolescent Well Being in Cohabiting, Married, & Single-Parent Families, 65 J. MARRIAGE & FAM. 876, 890 (2003) (DIX21) ("The advantage of marriage appears to exist primarily when the child is the biological offspring of both parents."); see also Affidavit of Professor Steven Lowell Nock, Halpern v. Attorney General of Canada, Case No. 684/00 (Ont. Sup. Ct. Justice 2001) (DIX131, attached as Exhibit C) (detailing flaws in same-sex parenting scholarship and studies).

(deleting findings in existing Section 572-C2. Such a severing *in law* of the connection between the unique procreative abilities of men and women and the institution of marriage that was designed to foster and channel those procreative abilities in a societally beneficial way is bound to have profound consequences, not just on the children but on all of society. Put simply, it is more difficult to convince people of the unique importance of fathers and mothers to the development of children when the law is saying that either fathers or mothers (or perhaps both) are optional. And again in the *Perry* trial evidence, this fact was confirmed by Plaintiffs' own expert: "the increase in father's absence is particularly troubling because it is consistently associated with poor school achievement, diminished involvement in the labor force, early child bearing, and heightened levels of risk-taking behavior."[22]

More troubling still. By removing any grounding of the institution of marriage in the unique biological complementarity of men and women, this proposed statute also removes any rational legal defense to other claims that undoubtedly will be brought to further redefine marriage. Section 572-1(1), for example, prohibits marriage between parents and their children, between siblings, and between aunts and uncles and their nieces and nephews (amended by this proposed statute to expand the prohibition to same-sex relationships in each

[22] Testimony of Professor Lamb, *Perry* Trial Tr. at 1073.

category). Yet once the essential conjugal nature of the marital relationship is severed from the institution as a matter of law, it is hard to fathom what the rational basis would be for these prohibitions. So, too, with the existing prohibition in Section 572-1(3) on polygamous marriages. Indeed, if anything, limitation on number is more arbitraty, and less rooted in historical practice, than the existing limitation on gender that this proposed statute seeks to abolish. I strongly urge this Committee to not take this step – at least not without a full vote of the people of the State expressing their willingness to embark upon such a radical and potentially devastating experiment in social policy. As same-sex marriage advocate Jonathan Rauch has previously recognized, there is wisdom in "find[ing] out how gay marriage works in a few states" while "let[ting] the other states hold back."[23]

Finally, let me address briefly the religious liberty exemption provided in the proposed legislation. It is, quite frankly, woefully inadequate. Only ministers, who do not have to perform marriages, and religious organizations that do not allow the use of their facilities by the general public for a profit, are protected. Countless others will find their sincerely held religious beliefs not protected at all,

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[23] Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, An Argument for Same-Sex Marriage: An Interview With Jonathan Rauch, April 24, 2008, available at http://pewforum.org/Gay-Marriage-and-Homosexuality/An-Argument-For-Same-Sex-Marriage-An-Interview-with-Jonathan-Rauch.aspx (*Perry*, Def. Ex. #1035).

and as the experience from other states is already demonstrating, the conflicts between religious liberty and mandatory recognition of same-sex relationships as “marriages” are not being resolved favorably in support of religious liberty.

I thank you for your time, and am happy to answer any questions you might have.

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

<u>13 reasons to vote No on the unconstitutional Same Sex marriage bill</u>

1. Would further the rampant spread of AIDS and STD's in the Gay community to others especially children being taught that homosexual has no consequences and is lifestyle choice.(See details below*)
2. Accommodations laws do not supersede the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. It's against the constitution for Government to legislate laws against the freedom of religion and rights of conscience.
3. Sexual orientation is defined by the act of sex. No one has the right to have sex with anybody that they want to. So by definition it cannot be equivalent to a civil right. If Sexual orientation becomes a right than those who are oriented to have sex with non-consensual women or men (rape & sodomy), underage children (pedophile), family members (incest), animals (bestiality) claim it as civil right as well.
4. Negative unintended consequences to existing laws and businesses, education, family morals and many aspects of society are countless and irreparable.
5. Those who support this controversial and negative societal change might not be accountable to the majority of the people and the Democratic voting of the people but they will have to answer to God who mentions biblically that it would be better for them to be thrown in the water with millstone tied to their neck then for them to cause the little ones to stumble towards evil and sin. So called Christians legislators are going to be held to a higher standard.
6. A very small fragment percentage of society will even use the law. All supposedly equal treatment and rights were already addressed in the Civil Unions and Reciprocal Beneficiaries bills passed into law. I guess the Homosexual lobbyists must have all been lying before about those laws they demand in the past.

7. Every cultural in the history of the world recognizes marriage between a man and a women, if they did they all began to be gay that culture would only exist for one generation and be gone to extinction.
8. Homosexuality is a major reason for Islamic Terrorism towards the United States.
9. Lawsuits and legal issues from this poorly written and unconstitutional bill and issue will tie down the legislature for years to come and cost the state millions of dollars.
10. Death threats and persecution of religious leaders and those opposing the homosexuality lobby would continue to go unpublished, unaddressed and flourish in the light of political correctness. Hate crimes and prejudice will continue to increase against Christian law abiding citizens.
11. The bill is poorly written contradicting itself when it eliminates the use of gender based terms like Husband and Wife on page 4 line 21 but then uses the terms on page 8 line 1.
12. The bill is discriminatory on the basis of race and ethnicity since page 7 lines 3-5 state that "The respective parties do not stand in relation to each other of ancestor and descendent of any degree whatsoever." So those you are of the same race and ancestry it will not allow be able to marry. Filipino to Filipino, Japanese to Japanese, Hawaiian to Hawaiian, etc.
    Definition of descendent: **a person considered as descended from some ancestor or race**
13. This bill illegally creates a tax on not profit Churches without stating in the Bills title as is required.
    SB1, the gay marriage bill to be considered in a special legislative session beginning October 28, contains within it an implied finding that marriage-related church functions, until now regarded as non-profit, will be considered a 'for-profit' activity. As a result, state and possibly federal taxes will be imposed on previously tax-exempt revenues generated on or after the bill's effective date of November 18, 2013. This will apply to all churches generating marriage-related revenue -- whether or not they accept gay marriage.
    SB1 is also incorrect in form because it does not mention taxation in the bill title or description. The word "tax" appears nowhere in the text of the bill. The Hawaii Legislators' Handbook points out: "A (bill) title must include a distinct reference to the subject matter to which it relates and also cover but one subject."

*** Physical Consequences of Homosexual Behavior**

STDs

Every year, according to the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii, homosexual males must be tested for:

- HIV
- HSV

- Syphilis*
- Rectal Gonorrhea
- Rectal Chlamydia
- Urethral CT & GC
- Pharyngeal Gonorrhea

*As of March 10, 2010, the Center for Disease Control reported 91-173 cases of syphilis per 100,000 men who have sex with men, compared to two cases per 100,000 other men, and one case per 100,000 women.**1**

In addition to being tested for STDs, homosexual males that have multiple partners which is about 97% of all homosexual males, every three to six months, the John Burns School of Medicine recommends that they are tested for Methamphetamine use.

From: MarshaRose Joyner
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:16:37 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I'm MarshaRose Joyner, a Veteran of the Civil Rights Movement". Inasmuch as I have spent the majority of my life fighting for equal rights for everyone. I'm writing to you as the representative of the people in Hawaii "the State of Aloha". And as such, I requesting that you take a good look at the issue of marriage equality, with the operative word being equality.

I respect your religious traditions and opinions; however the Constitution as stated in the 1st amendment is clear about the separation of church and state. Thomas Jefferson wrote "Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between Man & his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, & not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof", thus building a wall of separation between Church & State.

"The Establishment Clause" has long been thought to protect two values, the separation of religion and government from each other, and government neutrality with respect to religion. Separation requires that religion and government each refrain from involving itself in the affairs of the other.

While the so-called religious issue is necessarily and properly an issue, I want to emphasize from the outset that we have far more critical issues to face. Number one is: The humiliating treatment of our citizens who happened to be of a different sexual orientation by those who do not respect them.

The issue of liberty, justice and equality in the United States has been contentious throughout the country's history.

MarshaRose Joyner
477 Opihikao Place
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Lisa Hamilton
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:21:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

The human heart will go where it will, everyone has the right to marry whomever they wish because of this. I support marriage equality because marriage is a right, not a privilege. It is much too personal for lawmakers to legislate.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lisa Hamilton
146 Ehilani
Makawao, HI 96768

From: Kristin Douglas
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:22:38 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kristin Douglas
PO Box 1204
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From:	Teri Heede
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	TESTIMONY in SUPPORT - SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 1:40:45 PM
Importance:	High

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
SB 1 - RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
Aloha, Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee!

Mahalo for allowing me to testify in support of equal rights. That IS what this is about. EQUAL RIGHTS. It isn't about religion except for those religions that don't believe in equality. You want a GREAT example? Look at Iran. There entire government makes decisions based on their holy book.

Look at the South BEFORE the Civil War. Their brand of Christianity for land owners sounded from every southern pulpit. Southern churches rang with the voices of ministers quoting scripture and waving the bible to justify owning slaves and operating the EVIL machinations required to support such a system. Look, they said, it's in the BIBLE! See, their skin color…mark of Cain! They are not like white people and have evolved differently. They are certainly not now nor ever will be EQUAL in the sight of God or government!!!

I grew up in the 50's, a time idealized by many as the BEST time to raise a family. But generations after the "War Between the States" as it was called, I remember when dogs and fire hoses were turned on human beings. Then you had water fountains with "Colored Only" and Jim Crow was the law, segregation was required.

Well, it wasn't right then and this is not right now. You can't wave your Bible at me and tell me that rules is rules when I KNOW for a fact (having read the Bible) that we don't follow all the rules in there. We aren't following Moses' law like Jesus did…that's for SURE! Anybody here who eats pork, shellfish and/or wears polyester blends..YOU are ALL in trouble!!

And the bottom line is: I don't want to change your religion with this rule, no matter how misguided, compassionless and evil it might be. You have a right to your church….and PLEASE!! For the love of the GODDESS go there and worship!! If it is so radically righteous a life style…LIVE it! PROVE it! But DO NOT impose it on me or my government. I won't go to your church to get gay married and you stay out of mine when and IF I do (I have been married to a heterosexual 3 times….seriously…at this point I should just stop!) I won't come to YOUR church!!

BE BLESSED! Government do the right thing and stand up for EQUAL RIGHTS for all Americans!!!
Support this bill.

From: Daniel Gluck
Honolulu, HI

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **Strong Support** of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I strongly support SB1, and I respectfully ask that the Legislature pass this important legislation during this special session.

The law ought to treat all of Hawaii's families equally. This legislation will help to protect and promote the health of Hawaii's families, and it's the right thing to do for our state.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thank you very much,

Daniel Gluck
Kamehameha Heights

From: Scott Foster
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Supporting SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:58:27 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re: Supporting SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committees:

As a 70 year old Gay man, I've lived my entire adult life since 1965 openly Gay. Not that I "flaunt it" as we are often accused of doing, but simply because I knew that in order to become the person I wanted to be, I needed to be and live who I am.

In Hawai`i for 25 years, I've grown old. Despite Hawaii's reputation for openness, in the past I've been evicted from my rental home because my name was in the news while speaking out for my sisters and brothers as Editor of the Hawaii Gay community News during the horrible years of the AIDS Pandemic.

I gave the 10 most productive years of my life working pro bono for national drug policy reform in order to see HIV and other drugs (breast and colon cancer, etc.) move more quickly through clinical trials, to see Hawaii's lauded needle exchange passed into law and to help other LGBT living in Hawai`i to achieve many of the other benefits we now enjoy. But those are very limited when compared to the civil rights and protections the "straight" community takes for granted -- including marriage.

There are those who continue to call the LGBT ugly names and who continue to write and say hurtful, untrue things about us in the name of their version of "God" and in the name of Jesus Christ. The Lord of the Universe that I know loves us all just as we were created.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic American freedom that should not be denied to anyone. We get married for the same reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person we love.

In Hawaii, we don’t turn our backs on family. No member of anyone’s ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass SB-1 to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Scott Foster
2416 Kalihi Street Unit 11
#11
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: Luke Evslin
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:06:58 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Luke Evslin
7220 Kahuna Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: Nick LaCarra
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Committee on Judiciay and Labor, SB1,October 28,2013, 10:30AM
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:08:41 PM

From:**Nick LaCarra** (alohaguys808@hotmail.com)
Sent: Sat 10/26/13 3:51 PM
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson@capitolhawaii.gov (jdltestimony-inperson@capitolhawaii.gov)

I will be testifying in person to the Committee on Judiciary and Labor on Bill number SB1, Monday October 28,2013 at 10:30AM.
My testimony will outline the need for a bill that recognizes Equal Rights and grants the same rights to same sex couples that opposite sex couples have always had.

I have been with my partner for 30 years next March and have waited this entire time to be married and have the same rights as other couples that are married. I see no reason that one group of individuals have rights that other individuals are denied. History has shown us that discriminating and denying rights to any particular group is fundamentally wrong. We have as a nation moved forward and away from such antiquated beliefs. There have been a number of people in our society that were in the past denied their rights, such as women. Women at onetime were not allowed to vote, now they stand in front of me as part of a governing committee and are elected to run for President of the United States. African Americans were 'bought and sold' and denied any and all rights at one time in our great country, now they are respected, admired, and even hold the highest position in the United States of America! History has shown we should never deny any one group of people their rights. It is wrong and we have proven that from our past. We are ALL equal, we are born equal and should enjoy Equal Rights, icluding the right to marry the person we fall in love with.

I wonder if anyone of you in this governing body can imagine what it might feel like to hope that a group of individuals will vote on a bill to allow **you** to be equal! Imagine how it might feel, for me to say to you, that your love, your relationship is just not equal to mine! Well that is what you would be saying if you do not pass this bill.

There is no proof that my relationship of 30 years is going to destroy your marriage, or any marriage. There is proof that my relationship of almost 30 years **hasn't** destroyed your rmarriage or any other marriage. If my relationship of almost 30 years were going to destroy the sanctity of marriage, it would have happened almost 30 year ago! Marriage Equality does

not destroy marriages, unstable relationships destroy marriages, in both same sex marriages and oppostie sex marriages.

I ask you to vote for Marriage Equality, I beg you to vote for Marriage Equality, and it is truly a shame for any individual in this day and age to beg for their rights! Let this be the last time any individuals have to beg for their rights!

I hope that Hawaii will not be the last state to recognize equality. I hope that as history is recorded, Hawaii will be the 15th state (and Washington DC) to recognize true equality. Let us preserve the spirit of "Aloha" this state was founded on. Let our actions speak as loudly as our words!

ALOHA

Nick

From: Jeff Esmond
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 4:26:28 AM

My youngest son turned one two days ago. My older two children are three and a half. If ever there was a same gender couple who wanted children that would be me and my civil union partner Darrin. It's not easy as a male male couple to have children, but that didn't stop us. It took nine in vitro fertility attempts for us to have our two successful pregnancies. It wasn't easy, believe me. It is devastating to have a failed pregnancy attempt, let alone seven. Need I tell you how much we wanted children? How much we wanted a family? Our children have had two parents raising them from the day they were born. I know the truth about our ability to raise children as a loving family. I also know that my partner and I deserve the right to get married like other couples currently allowed to get married legally. No one can look at our children and tell me they don't deserve the dignity of having their two parents be married under Hawaii state law. No one can look at me and my partner and say that either.

This does not affect just us, this affects every one. That's because there are gay people in all of our lives..whether it is our immediate family members, our co workers, our friends, our neighbors, the person who helps us at the store, or the person we help. We are not some separate minority group, we are a part of all of us.

My children are too young to understand that under Hawaii state law it is currently illegal for their parents to be legally married. I hope I never have to explain to them that we are second class citizens.

Please support SB1 and vote yes so that all couples including couples with children can be treated equally.

Jeff Esmond
47-501A Nenehiwa Pl
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Committee:	Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time:	Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:	Capitol Auditorium
Re:	*Testimony of the Hawaii United for Marriage in Strong Support of S.B. 1, Relating to Equal Rights*
From:	Jacce Mikulanec

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I write on behalf of Hawaii United for Marriage in strong support of S.B. 1, Relating to Equal Rights, which establishes the freedom to marry for same-sex couples in Hawaii.

Hawaii United for Marriage (HUM) is a statewide coalition of religious congregations and clergy, businesses, labor unions, community organizations, and individuals. HUM has secured the following endorsements for the freedom to marry in Hawaii: (1) over 70 faith leaders and organizations; (2) Governor Abercrombie, the entire federal delegation of Hawaii and numerous elected officials; (3) over 75 community organizations; (4) 13 labor unions; (5) over 200 local businesses; (6) seven media outlets; and (7) hundreds of individuals and attorneys. Lists of each of these groups are attached to this testimony for your convenience. As illustrated by the diverse and overwhelming support for marriage equality, the fact is that Hawaii is ready.

Marrying the person you love is a basic freedom. Committed couples and their families, regardless of their sexual orientation, should all have the same rights and protections.
Gay and lesbian couples want to marry for the same reasons as anyone: to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment, and responsibility to each other. Marriage is unique, there's nothing else like it. And marriage says `ohana in a way that civil unions simply do not.

We respectfully urge you to pass S.B. 1. The time is now.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jacce Mikulanec, JACL – Honolulu Chapter
Founding member of Hawaii United for Marriage

HAWAII UNITED FOR MARRIAGE

Faith

United for Marriage Equality in Hawaii

Rev. Bill Albinger (Episcopal)
Donald Armstrong (Jewish, Conservative)
Rev. Dr. Michael Arase-Barham (Episcopal)
Ken Aronowitz, Cantor (Jewish)
Rev. David J. Baar (Episcopal)
Rev. Stan Bain (Methodist)
Very Rev. Walter Brownridge (Episcopal)
Sister Joan Chatfield (Catholic)
Church of the Crossroads
Rev. Joshua Clough (Methodist)
The Church of the Holy Apostles
Rev. Samuel Cox (Methodist)
Tom Van Culin (Episcopal)
Rev. Mary David (Buddhist)
Rev. Sam Domingo (Methodist)
Father Nick Eyre (Ecumenical Catholic)
First Unitarian Church of Honolulu
Rt. Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick (Episcopal)
Rev. Angela Freeman (Lutheran)
Rev. Fritz Fritschel (Retired ELCA Clergy)
Former Bishop Yoshiaki Fujitani (Retired, Honpa Hongwanji Mission)
Rev. Darren Galindo (Unitarian)
Gandhi International Institute for Peace
Rev. Carolyn Martinez Golojuch (Native American Spiritualist)
Paul Gracie (Jewish, Reform)
Rev. Canon Brian Grieves (Episcopal)
Rev. Kerry Grogan (Disciples of Christ)
Rev. Michael Grogan (Disciples of Christ)
Jade Guess (Unitarian)
Rev. Keith Harding (Episcopal)
Rev. John Heidel (United Church of Christ)
Rev. Blayne Higa (Buddhist)
Father Moki Hino (Episcopal)
Honolulu Friends Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quaker)
Rev. Margie Hyatt (Unity)
Rev. Earl Ikeda (Buddhist)
Father Jack Isbell (Ecumenical Catholic)
Rev. Kevin Kline (Lutheran)
The Very Rev. Father Drew A. Kovach, MD (Inclusive Orthodox)
Rev. Dr. Catherine Ishida (Unitarian)
Konko Mission of Honolulu
Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki (Buddhist)
Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kupono Kwong (Unitarian)
Rev. George Lee (Episcopal)
Rev. Jeff Lilley (Lutheran)
Rev. Paul Lillie (Episcopal)
Rev. Kyle Lovett (United Church of Christ)
Bradford Lum (Buddhist/Hawaiian)
Rev. Neal MacPherson (United Church of Christ)
Rev. Rona Managayayam (Methodist)
Rev. Tim Mason (Lutheran)
Bishop Eric Matsumoto (Buddhist)
Rev. Irene Matsumoto (Buddhist)
Rev. Bob Miyake-Stoner (Methodist)
Rev. Nobuko Miyake-Stoner (Methodist)
Rev. Bob Nakata (Methodist)
Rev. Dr. John T. Norris – Fmr. ED, Hawaii Council of Churches
Rev. Mary Paik (United Church of Christ)Bonnie Prebula (Lic. Hawaii Minister)
Randy Reynoso (United Church of Christ)
Rev. Barbara Grace Ripple (Methodist)
Rabbi Peter Schaktman (Jewish, Reform)
Rev. Sky St. John (Unity)
Rev. Nayer Taheri (Unitarian/Muslim)
Rev. Dr. Todd Z. Takahashi (Shinto)
Unitarian Universalists of West Hawaii (Kailua-Kona)
Unitarian Universalists of Puna
Unity Church of Hawaii
Robert Bley-Vroman (Quaker)
A. Joris Watland (Lutheran)
Dr. Mel White
Renie Wong-Lindley (Quaker)
Rev. Edna Yano (Shinto)
Rev. Liz Zivanov (Episcopal)

HAWAII UNITED FOR MARRIAGE

Elected Officials

United for Marriage Equality in Hawaii

Governor Neil Abercrombie
Former Governor John Waihee
U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono
U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz
U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard
U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa
Sen. Rosalyn Baker
Sen. Kalani English
Sen. Will Espero
Sen. Gilbert Kahele
Sen. Michelle Kidani
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland
Sen. Russell Ruderman
Sen. Laura Thielen
Rep. Della Au Belatti
Rep. Tom Brower
Rep. Denny Coffman
Rep. Faye Hanohano
Rep. Kaniela Ing
Rep. Chris Lee
Rep. Nicole Lowen
Former Rep. Jim Shon
Rep. Mark Takai
Rep. Cynthia Thielen
Former Rep. & Vice Speaker Jackie Young
Hawaii County Councilperson Margaret Wille
Former Honolulu City Council Chair Gary Gill
Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell
Honolulu Councilperson Ikaika Anderson
Honolulu Councilperson Stanley Chang
Former Honolulu Councilperson Stephen A. Holmes
Honolulu Councilperson Ann Kobayashi

HAWAII UNITED FOR MARRIAGE

Community Organizations

United for Marriage Equality in Hawaii

ACLU of Hawaii
Advocates for Public Interest Law (APIL), University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law
Afro-American Lawyers Association
Ahupua'a Action Alliance
Aloha Tennis Association
Americans for Democratic Action Hawaii
American Immigration Lawyers Association, Hawaii Chapter
American Unity Fund
Anti-Defamation League
Aloha Bears
Babes Against Biotech
Blazing Saddles Hawaii
Chaminade University Gay Straight Alliance
Democratic Party of Hawaii
Dignity Honolulu
Equality Hawaii
Equality Hawaii Action Fund
Equality Hawaii Foundation
Freedom to Marry
Gay Men's Chorus of Honolulu
Gill Action Fund
GLBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii
Green Party of Hawaii
Gregory House Programs
Harm Reduction Hawaii
Hawaii Advocates for Consumer Rights
Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Hawaii Association of Immigration Attorneys
Hawaii Commission on the Status of Women
Hawaii Independent Democrats
Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation
Hawaii LGBT Legal Association (HLLA)
Hawaii Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition
Hawaiian National Communications Corporation
Hawaii National Lawyers Guild
Hawaii Peace & Justice (formerly AFSC – Hawaii)
Hawaii People's Fund
Hawaii State Democratic Women's Caucus
Hawaii Women in Filmmaking
Honolulu Pride
Human Rights Campaign
'Iolani Gay Straight Alliance
Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)
KAHEA, The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance
Kokua Council
Libertarian Party of Hawaii
Life Foundation
Laulima Equality
Maui Peace Action
Maui Pride
Marriage Equality USA
MoveOn.org
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) Hawaii Chapter
National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter
National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA) – Hawaii
Oahu County Democratic Party
OutServe – SLDN
Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery
PFLAG – Kauai
National Lawyers Guild – Hawaii Chapter
PFLAG – Oahu
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii
Progressive Democrats of Hawaii
Storytellers Everywhere
UH – Manoa Department of Political Science
UH – Manoa Ethnic Studies
UH – Manoa Graduate Student Organization
UH – Manoa Graduate Student Sociological Association
UH – Manoa John A. Burns School of Medicine, Partnership for Social Justice (UH JABSOM PSJ)
UH – Manoa Kua'ana Native Hawaiian Student Services
UH – Manoa Lambda Law Student Association
UH – Manoa LGBT Student Services
UH – Manoa Women's Center
Women's Chorus of Honolulu
World Can't Wait
Young Democrats of Hawaii
YWCA - Hawaii Island
YWCA - Kaua'i
YWCA - Oahu

HAWAII UNITED FOR MARRIAGE

Labor

United for Marriage Equality in Hawaii

Hawaii Nurses Association, OPEIU Local 50
Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters
Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA)
Hawaii State Teachers Staff Organization (HSTSO)
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW), Local Lodge 1998
Musicians' Association of Hawaii, Local 677 AFM
Pride at Work Hawaii
SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild)
UNITE HERE! Local 5
United Food & Commercial Workers Local 480
United Public Workers (UPW)
United Steelworkers International Union Local 12-0059

HAWAII UNITED FOR MARRIAGE

Businesses

United for Marriage Equality in Hawaii

808 Skate
808 Sparklez
A&B Party Rentals
Acupoint Hawaii
Akamai Foot Doctor, LLC
Albiola Photography
Ali'i Bluffs Windward Bed and Breakfast
Allegra Performing Arts
Algood Consulting
Algood Living, LLC
Aloha Guest House
Aloha Labradors
Aloha Lobster
Aloha Toe Rings
Aqua Resorts
Arna Unlimited
Anytime Taxi
Art by Caitlin Hood
Asa Flowers
As Seen on TV Store – Hawaii
As Spirit Moves
A White Orchid Wedding, Inc.
Bacchus
Banyan Tree Sanctuary & Vacation Rentals
Banzai Sushi
Barrio Vintage
Basique Threads
Beauty & Brains Salon
Best Day Ever Hawaii
Betty's Beach Cafe
Bevy
Big Island Tattoo
Blank Canvas
Blue Dragon Bodywork
BookkeeperVirtual.com
Kelli Bullock Photography
Café @ La Plage
The Catering Connection
Catering from Soup to Nuts
Celestial Natural Foods
Ceramic Designs by Albert
Ceramic Tile Plus
Chai's Island Bistro
Chelsea
Chinatown Music Studios
Chrysalis Counseling and Consulting
Coconut Grove Music
Communications Pacific
The Creating CoPOWERment (r) Center, LLC
CrimmCoSocial
The Crouching Lion Bar & Grille
Da Local Banana
Derek Daniels Productions
Design Response
Divine Maui
Do's Formal
Tiana Dole, Reiki Practioneer
Double Dare
Down Beat Diner
Earth Island Medicine
EGGSaCTLY
Elements of U
Events International
Evo Investment Advisors, Ltd.
Exclusively Yours Design
Fern Grotto Inn
Fighting Eel
Flags Flying
Flower Fair
Fred's Mexican Cafe
Fusion Waikiki
gayhawaiiweddings.net
Genius Lounge
Genius Outfitters
Grass Shack Rentals & Parties
Green Ti Boutique & Massage, LLC
Greens & Vines
Guava Shop
Hale Ohia Cottages
Haleiwa Art Gallery
Hana Roberts ND
Hanai Mala'ai
Happiness Hawaii
Harbor View Center
Hastings Luan & Roth
Hawaiian Aloha Blessings
Hawaii Weddings
Hawaii Island Retreat
Hawaiian Islands Candle Company
Hawaii Stone & Tile
Hello Makana
Help-U-Sell Honolulu Properties
Hibiscus Lady Nursery
Hiking Hawaii
Hitched on Maui
Holly's Hand-Made
Holuakoa Cafe
Honolulu Box Office
Ho'okupu Designs, Inc.
Peggy Hopper Gallery
House of Aria
Huggo's
Huggo's On The Rocks
Hula's Bar and Lei Stand
I Do Hawaiian Weddings & Civil Unions
I Love Country Cafe
In Between Waikiki
In Concierge Services
Island Art Gallery
Island Heritage Realty
Island Keepsakes
Island Olive Oil
Island Soul Entertainment
Jackie Rey's Ohana Grill
Ryan Jacobie Salon
Java Cafe
Jeannemarie Photography
Juniroa Productions
Jungle Gems
Kailua Massage Therapy

HAWAII UNITED FOR MARRIAGE

Businesses

United for Marriage Equality in Hawaii

Kalani Oceanside Retreat
Konalani, Inc.
Kauai Calls!
Kauai Country Inn
Kauai Island Weddings
Ke'ie Cafe
Kimble Mead Designs
Kissed By Maui, LLC
Kohana Ili
Kona Impact
Kona Rock and Mineral
Ktown Tattoo
La Muse
Scott Larimer, RA, Coldwell Banker Pacific Properties
Latitudes, Purveyors of Tommy Bahama Home
Lava Lava Beach Club
Gigi Lee Photography
Leis of Hawaii
Rhoady Lee Architecture & Design (RLAD)
Life Centered Acupuncture Care
Little Gay Book
Little India
Loading Zone
LoJax
Loden & Conahan, LLC
Louis Pohl Gallery
Love Your Lawn
Lucky Belly
Scott MacGowan, RA, Coldwell Banker Pacific Properties
Manutea Nui E
Mahina Pizza
Maria Bonita Restaurant
Marry Me Maui
Mary Z's
The Mask-querade Bar
Maui Natural Bee
Maui Natural Medicine & Physical Therapy
Maui Property Realty
Maui Real Estate & Fung Sui
Maui Sunseeker LGBT Resort
Maui Tax Advisors
Maui Wedding Cakes, Inc.
Maui Wedding Group
Maui Wedding Photography
Daryl Millard Gallery
Morning Brew
Donald Munro, Realtor
Niu Health Chiropractic
Oahu Glass
Oasis Cafe
Ocean View Chiropractic
Office Pavilion
Ola Kai, Ltd.
Ono Nuts
Otto Cake
Over Easy Down Under
Owens & Co.
Para Mercantile
Paracord Maui
Paradise Gourmet Catering
Penny Palmer Photography
Perfectly Planned Hawaii
PhynxPhyr Visions
Pineapple County
Planet Surf
Poiupu Plantation Resort, LLC
Pride Ink
Psychotherapy Office of Alan R. Spector, LCSW
Puddle Duck Portraits
A Rainbow in Paradise
Rainbow Weddings
Raw Dog Hawaii
Red Pineapple
Relax Therapeutic Massage
Revere & Associates
Rachel Robertson Photography
Andrew Rose Gallery
Clare M. Rountree, PD.D, LLC
Royal Hawaiian Weddings
RT's Service, LLC
Rubber Stamp Plantation
Screen Pro of Hawaii
Simple Joy Vegetarian
Small & Mighty Marketing
Smith's Union Bar
Solar Rayes Hawaii
Starr Properties
Sterling Silver Productions
Still and Moving Center
Super Citizen
Surrounds Me
Sweet Creations by Dian Athena
Swim Pro
Tasty Ventures, LLC
Techmana, LLC
The Soap Cellar
Therapeutic Hands of Ross
The Tea Farm
Tom Moffatt Productions
Tower Hill Resources
Treasure Island Gallery
Twelve Tribes
Two Chicks in a Hammock, LLC
Under a Hula Moon
Undersea Expeditions, LLC
Valley Isle Gymnastics
Vintage Green Farms
Vintage Surfboards
Waikiki Mint Limeade
Waialae Performing Arts Company
Robert Watkins Emergency Group
West Maui Counseling Center
The Winam Studio

HAWAII UNITED FOR MARRIAGE

Media

United for Marriage Equality in Hawaii

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Maui News
Odyssey Magazine Hawaii

HAWAII UNITED FOR MARRIAGE

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United for Marriage Equality in Hawaii

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Sean Taylor
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Gavin Thornton
Laurie Tochiki
Melissa Uhl
Clyde Wadsworth
Richard Wallsgrove
Sylvia Wan
Valentina Watson
Natalie Wilson
Matthew Winter
Bennett Wisniewski
Robin Wurtzel
Georgette Yaindl
Eric Yamamoto
Wendy Yamamoto
Lee Yarbrough
Edmund Yee
Mark Yee
Cathleen Yonahara
Colin Yost
Moana Yost
Alexa Zen

From: Michael DeWeert
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:45:10 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. It goes beyond the narrow dogmas of any particular religious or ethnic group. There is nothing in the Bible about the right to visit your spouse in the hospital, the right to inherit property from your spouse, the right to provide health care for your spouse – these civil rights and others are legally granted by the secular laws and authorities -- It is time to free civil and legal definition of marriage from control by religious dogmas. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael DeWeert
926-A Kaipii Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Carmela Tafoya
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Writing to my Legislator
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:51:51 PM

Dear Sirs,
Mahalo for giving me the opportunity to testify in writing and in person.

Support marriage equality for same-sex couples in the upcoming special session, please!

ALOHA, love is what our state is known for. Stonger`ohana starts with making a life-long committment to the one we love in the eyes of church and state, while allowing critical protections and recognition; all people deserve.

Sixteen countries have the freedom to marry for same-sex couples (Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Canada, South Africa, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Iceland, Argentina, Denmark, France, Brazil, Uruguay, and New Zealand - plus Britain.)

Fourteen states - CA, CT, DE, IA, ME, MD, MA, MN, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT, and WA - plus Washington, D.C. have the freedom to marry for same-sex couples.

Please let us finally shine as a State that leads, not that is left behind.

Mahalo Nui Loa for supporting this legislation,

Carmela Tafoya
808-554-1633

From: Clyde Wadsworth
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:53:27 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Clyde Wadsworth. I am an attorney with the law firm of Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing, and co-counsel with John D'Amato representing the plaintiff couples in the marriage equality case – Jackson v. Abercrombie – that is currently before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. I have 30 years of civil litigation experience, and I have worked as a cooperating attorney with Lambda Legal and the ACLU in cases involving marriage equality and religious exemptions to anti-discrimination laws. I am testifying today in my personal capacity.

I testify in strong support of SB1.

My partner and I recently celebrated our twentieth anniversary together. They say first comes love, then comes marriage, but we decided we couldn't wait for the official recognition. Our rich life together—our family, our friends—is what happened in the meantime.

As an attorney, I believe the freedom to marry the person you love is a fundamental constitutional right. And as a citizen of Hawai`i, I believe the freedom to marry is also the promise of aloha—an invitation to share both the benefits and responsibilities of living in this paradise. The marriage equality bill is a natural outgrowth of that aloha. It remedies a basic inequality in our system that denies gay and lesbian families—and make no mistake about it, we are families in every way that matters—the same rights and responsibilities that protect other married couples.

We can’t let the forces of intolerance dictate whether the state will afford gay and lesbian families their fundamental civil rights. And we can’t let those forces use their religious beliefs as a tool to limit the constitutional rights of their fellow citizens.

The religious exemption in SB1 protects religious freedom. The broader exemption sought by the bill's opponents would undermine the purpose of the bill. It would also open the door to exactly the kind of discrimination that Hawai`i's public accommodations law was designed to prevent. Would we allow religiously-affiliated organizations that are providing commercial services to discriminate against interracial couples on religious grounds? I doubt it. It doesn't make policy sense – and I believe it is constitutionally prohibited – to start cutting piecemeal holes in Hawai`i's public accommodations law targeted at same-sex couples.

A broader religious exemption is also unnecessary as a matter of First Amendment law. The U.S. Supreme Court made clear in the case of Employment Division v. Smith that religious beliefs do not excuse compliance with valid, generally applied laws regulating matters that the state is free to regulate, even if the law has the side effect of burdening a particular religious belief or practice. To permit religious exemptions to such laws, the Court said, would make professed religious beliefs superior to the law of the land, and permit every citizen to become a law unto himself.

In addition, the marriage equality bill does not interfere with internal church governance under the so-called church property cases. It does not involve employment decisions by religious organizations affecting employees who have the religious duties of ministers, which is what the recent case of Hosanna-Tabor v. EEOC involved.

Boy Scouts of America v. Dale, which has been cited by advocates of a broader exemption, also does not apply

here. SB1 does not force any church or other religious organization to take on a married same-sex spouse as their members. When a religiously-affiliated organization enters the public, secular world to make a buck, it is like any other business subject to anti-discrimination laws. Inserting a broad exemption into the marriage equality bill that allows religiously affiliated businesses to discriminate against same-sex couples is simply not a constitutional requirement.

There is no reason to dilute HB1 to allow discrimination against same-sex couples. That's not what the constitution requires and it's not what Hawai`i is about.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Clyde Wadsworth
2233 Nuna Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

From:	Joe Wilson
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Cc:	Sen. Clayton Hee; Sen. Maile Shimabukuro; Sen. Mike Gabbard; Sen. Malama Solomon; Sen. Brickwood Galuteria; Sen. Sam Slom; Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.
Subject:	Testimony-In-Person - in Strong Support of SB 1- Relating To Equal Rights
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:11:29 PM

TO: **Hawai‘i State Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**
Clayton Hee – Maile S.L. Shimabukuro – Les Ihara, Jr. – Sam Slom – Brickwood Galuteria
Malama Solomon – Mike Gabbard

FR: **Joe Wilson**
58-125 Iwia Place
Haleiwa, HI 96712

DATE: October 26, 2013

RE: **Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS -** Recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex. Extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive. (While I support both Senator Hee's and Governor Abercrombie's version of the bill, I would prefer to see the version that ensures full compliance with Hawai'i's public accommodations law, voted upon, passed, enacted, and enforced.) **Hearing scheduled for 10:30am, Oct. 28, 2013, Auditorium, State Capitol**

Testimony

I have been a resident of the North Shore of O‘ahu for nearly ten years and a professional, as well as volunteer community-based, advocate for social, economic, environmental justice and human rights for more than 30 years. I continue this work now as a documentary filmmaker for public television. “Out In The Silence,” a PBS film I made about the quest for fairness and equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in rural and small town America, won an Emmy Award in 2010.

I offer this testimony IN SUPPORT of SB1 and all efforts to achieve inclusion, dignity, respect and full equal rights under the law for LGBT

and all members of the human family.

For my entire life, I have suffered from and been witness to the marginalization, bullying, harassment, violence and discrimination born of anti-gay bigotry. In my experience, these anti-gay campaigns have most often, and most vociferously, been fostered by those who claim some sort of fundamentalist religious beliefs and have taken place in front of parents, teachers, preachers, politicians and other community leaders and authorities who shamefully did nothing to prevent such terror, and worse, condoned it with their silence.

I applaud all those who are here today to make strong arguments for why lesbian and gay people should finally be included in the civil institution of marriage.

But I believe that, after centuries of exclusion from the life of our communities, we are finally at a very different place in this struggle. It is no longer our burden to explain our humanity or to beg that our human dignity or right to equality be recognized and respected.

Rather, it is your burden, as public servants and as our representatives in government, to explain why state-sanctioned discrimination against your gay and lesbian tax-paying, families, friends, neighbors and constituents should be tolerated for even one more day.

Please, do the right thing. Pass SB1, enact marriage equality in Hawai'i now, and remember that this is not the end, but merely the beginning of the urgent work to be done to end the harms that have been done to LGBT people in the name of religion, tradition, and state-sanctioned discrimination and to begin to make our communities whole again.

From: Tracey Bennett
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: *****SPAM***** STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:27:08 AM

October 25, 2013

Monday, October 28, 2013 – 10:30 a.m.
Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol Auditorium
<!--[if !supportLineBreakNewLine]-->
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RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1
<!--[if !supportLineBreakNewLine]-->
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Aloha, Chairperson Hee and fellow committee members,

Last week I passed a few sign wavers in front of this building. Their signs said, "Support Traditional Marriage." I don't--and if they knew what it really meant--those folks wouldn't either.

Traditional marriages were arranged marriages for status or for the preservation of money or property. Some men captured their wives. Or bought them for cows, goats, skins or even woodpecker scalps.

Women had to be virgins. Some traditional couples didn't even meet until the wedding. Marry for love? Forget it! That was out of the question. In many countries that's still true.

Women themselves had no rights in traditional marriage. They couldn't own property; they WERE property. Divorce was impossible. Wife beating was legal. An English judge said that was just fine, as long as the stick was no bigger than a thumb.

Traditional marriage meant marrying someone of the same religion and above all, the same race.

That's traditional marriage. But marriage has changed over time, and now it's time to change it again. Please support this bill allowing same-sex couples to marry.

Sincerely,
Tracey Bennett
939 Kawaiki Pl.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825
Tracey2@hawaii.rr.com

From: Gina Cardazone
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1: Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:28:17 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Hawaii is known for its diversity, tolerance, and promotion of families of all kinds. As such, it should be at the forefront of the marriage equality movement. Although the legislature has made some strides in promoting equality by allowing civil unions, we all know that separate but equal institutions cannot be truly equal. Now that the Supreme Court has removed barriers to federal recognition of same-sex marriages, the difference in benefits for couples who can and cannot be legally married in Hawaii are stark.

As a member of Dignity Honolulu, a group that advocates for acceptance of LGBT families in the Catholic church, I have been heartened to see progress in the Church's relationship with LGBT people. In particular, I am extremely appreciative of Pope Francis's statements about non-judgement, and recognition that the Church's obsession with sexual issues has been harmful. I wish that some of our local church leaders would heed his words, and open their minds to allow the same evolution in thinking that the Pope, the President, and millions of others have experienced in recent years. I wish that they could see the people that I see at Dignity services every week - kind and faithful people whose love is unquestionably a blessing from God. I have seen people who have been together for decades, through sickness and health and all kinds of hardship, while being denied recognition of the validity of their relationships and equal rights under the law.

The separation of church and state is necessary in order to preserve the integrity of both institutions. Religious liberty is a cornerstone of democracy, and it includes not only the freedom to practice the religion of your choice, but also the promise that the government will not make decisions based on preference for the religious beliefs of one group over another. We allow people to eat pork, cut their beards, and work on Sundays, even though there are people who believe that these things are sinful. If someone were to claim that it was necessary to prevent anyone from ever eating pork in order to preserve "religious freedom," we would instantly recognize this as a logical fallacy.

Just as the intrusion of religion on legislative decision making threatens democracy, so does the over-politicization of the church threaten its primary purpose of attending to the spiritual needs of its followers. The repercussions of this have been felt in many religious institutions, as many people, particularly younger people who overwhelmingly support equality for LGBT people, have become disillusioned with religious leaders that have been more focused on influencing politics and promoting discrimination than on true spiritual ministry. I believe that recognition of the sanctity of same-sex relationships is an important religious issue, and hope to see major changes in denominations that currently endorse inequality. However, I also believe that religious concerns should be wholly separated from legislative decisions. Legally, there is no justification for this kind of discrimination.

Please make Hawaii a welcoming place for all families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gina Cardazone
1687 Pensacola St Apt 605
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Jim Henry
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:48:39 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I have been living in Hawai'i for only nine years, so part of me feels I have not yet earned the right to speak. Most likely, most of the people listening have lived here far longer and were perhaps born here. They have more of a "right" to speak than I.

On the other hand, from the day of my arrival, I have strived to "give back" to Hawai'i, because I feel such gratitude for the opportunity to live here. Here is how I give back: I teach the sons and daughters of Hawai'i, at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, in my field of composition and rhetoric, whether preparing graduate students to teach writing or preparing undergraduate students to use writing in their studies and to prepare for their careers. It is hard work that entails hours and hours of reading, responding, and more reading to help students perform to their best.

This semester, I'm teaching first-year composition, and I find myself every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in a room full of seventeen-year-olds who are nothing short of delightful. They're energetic, interesting, and full of respect—for one another and for me. They thus embody Hawai'i and remind me again and again of values such as aloha that were a part of this place long before any of us or our parents or grandparents or great grandparents set foot on this 'aina.

When we work together to improve their writing, we focus on argument and persuasion and the key components of (1) logic, (2) ethical appeal, and (3) appeal to commonly held values. I haven't asked them to write any essays on marriage equality, but if I were to do so, #1 is easy: logically, there is no reason to keep in place a legal category that discriminates among citizens, as the Supreme Court of the United States has already affirmed. The ethical appeal, #2, is more complex. I realize there are listeners who equate ethics with morality and whose personal morality is grounded in religious beliefs, unlike my own. I was reared in the Methodist church, but I left it in my late teens, after one too many occasions when, after a sermon on the teachings of Christ, we would exit the church and within moments I'd hear comments that denigrated those outside our religion, comments that seemed quite the opposite of what I had been taught—that what I had read—were the teachings of a man bent not on discrimination but upon love. So even though I left the church, I took what I think is its most important teaching: to treat EVERYONE I encounter, bar none, the way I would like them to treat me. This is sometimes referred to as the golden rule, and it grounds my ethics.

Finally, on the topic of commonly held values, #3, please consider this: it took me 50 years to meet my life partner, the man with whom I will spend the rest of my days until one of us dies. I'm 61, he's 68. So we are at ages when both of us know that either of us could go at any moment. We could be traveling, for example, in a state where law dictates that someone admitted to intensive care, perhaps on the verge of death, may be accompanied in the ICU only by a member of the immediate family. If it were I on my deathbed, the only thing in the world I would want would be to have him at my side. If it were he on his deathbed, I would find forced separation at that moment the most unbearable experience imaginable. I ask married heterosexuals listening now to consider your own situation and to ask yourself if you do indeed share my values.

If you do, please vote in the affirmative to allow marriage equality. We know from numerous polls that if those students I work with every day—that demographic from seventeen to thirty—were to vote on this issue now, they would overwhelmingly approve equality. It's logical, it's ethical, it appeals to our common values. Please show these young people—the future of Hawai'i—that you are voting on the right side of history.

Jim Henry
1258A Center Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
RE: IN SUPPORT OF SB 1 -- RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS.

DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairman Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to give personal testimony related to SB 1. I am Dr. Ashley Maynard and I serve as Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. While my testimony is informed by my profession and many years of training and research, this testimony does not necessarily represent the position of the University of Hawai`i.

I am a cultural developmental psychologist. I have studied the interrelationships of culture, contexts of child development, and healthy cognitive and social development of children for the past 20 years. I have published many articles and three books in developmental psychology. I have taught approximately 2500 students over the past 13 years in psychology courses. The most important thing I do in my job is to teach students to think critically. Critical thinking involves examining all the evidence—even evidence that we don't like—when weighing information about a subject. My field, Cultural Developmental Psychology, uses anthropology and psychology to look at the many healthy pathways to development in cultures all over the world, and it provides evidence related to the issue of civil unions for same-sex couples. Adults in societies around the world marry, form partnerships, or group together to organize social ties of co-residence, parental responsibility, and inheritance. Decades of anthropological and psychological research point to the clear conclusion that a vast array of family types, including those built upon same-sex partnerships, contribute to stable and humane societies.

Treating people equally contributes to that stability. Extending equal rights to same-sex couples is a way for Hawaii to extend the same privileges, rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in an opposite-sex marriage, and it is the correct thing to do. Research indicates that these benefits and responsibilities should be afforded to same-sex couples. These include both physical and mental health benefits. Not allowing same-sex couples these benefits is state-sponsored discrimination tantamount to the anti-miscegenation laws on the books in many states some decades ago. Research indicates that the experience of prejudice has long-term, pernicious health effects. Discrimination is not good for anyone.

SB 1 will provide rights, benefits, and responsibilities needed by many families in our state. Families in our state, our country, and indeed the world take on a wide variety of

adaptive forms, and the preponderance of evidence in the most reputable journals demonstrates that parents of the same sex are able to provide consistent, responsive, nurturing care to children as well as parents of the opposite sex. There is no evidence whatsoever that sexual orientation is related to one's ability to parent.

As a psychologist, I would like to respond to some of the claims made in opposition to this bill. Most of all, I want to make it clear that being gay is not a choice. It is all too easy for people who feel perfectly natural about their heterosexual orientation to claim that other people are making a choice not to be heterosexual. What these people don't experience is that it is just as natural for people who are homosexual to feel the way they feel.

You may hear an opinion that it is a confusing message to tell children when they grow up that it is o.k. to marry a man or marry a woman. The reality is that there are already same-sex headed families here in Hawaii and around the world. It *is* confusing to tell children that they cannot be who they are, or that they cannot love the person they love just because they are the same sex. Let's put this in perspective. We typically tell children that they can grow up to be anything they want in their professional lives. Yet no one seems to find that confusing, even when many of the jobs our children will grow up to do don't exist yet.

It *is* confusing and it does harm to society to keep perpetuating the myth that being heterosexual is the way that people are "supposed to be", because the reality is that there are people who are not, and it is not by choice. Perpetuating a false myth is confusing to people when they are confronted with the reality of so many people worldwide who are different from them. We must learn to deal with the fact that being gay is not a choice. We must tolerate diversity and do what we can to accept it.

The "doomsday" scenarios that have been presented by those in opposition to this bill (that passage will result in the end of "traditional" marriage and even the end of society) are not based in reality—a reality that includes a preponderance of evidence from history and from around the world. Indeed, these doomsday views are rather myopic. There is evidence dating back thousands of years that same-sex couples have existed as a part of stable societies. Furthermore, marriage between one man and one woman and the separate "nuclear family" is a rather recent and rare phenomenon on the planet. In fact, this is not the dominant form of marriage at all, today or throughout history. And it simply is not the case that "one man and one woman" has been the "dominant or traditional form of marriage for thousands of years." Indeed, for most of our history, humans have lived in groups with extended kin, not in isolated nuclear families. If we take a larger view of humanity, then, the actual traditional marriage is not at all what is dominant in the United States. Add to the discussion the evidence from countries and states where same-sex marriages are recognized, and we see very clearly that these societies have not fallen apart, and that opposite-sex couples continue to marry. It may be difficult for some to understand the importance of extending equal rights to all, but fear of change and an unlikely future not supported by any evidence must not be a reason to block equality. This bill does not redefine marriage. This bill recognizes the kinds of marriage already going on and it recognizes the equal rights of people of any gender and sexual orientation to marry.

As an educator I also wanted to comment on the worries presented by a recent panel on what might happen in sex education in schools. Sex education might be better called Family Life Education, and we can learn to remove gender from our ideas of parenting, and instead of teaching about a "mommy and a daddy," we can just teach about "parents," who can be of any gender. More inclusive, gender-free language will present children with a less-biased view of "how things should be," and open their minds to acceptance of how things are. Why shouldn't children be able to see their own families represented in Family Life Education? Children in same-sex headed households deserve to be part of the conversation. Let's include all families. It's the right thing to do.

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote Yes on SB 1.

Very truly yours,
Ashley E. Maynard, Ph.D

From: kim allen
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Marriage Equality Testimony
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:20:54 AM

For several years I faced the immense challenges of caregiving for my wife, Theresa, who had cancer in a society and healthcare system in which we were not legally recognized as married.

Theresa was the love of my life. Being married to her, caring for her in sickness and in health, was the most meaningful thing I have ever done. She passed away in 2010. In planning for her memorial, I had to fight for her mother's permission to keep some of her ashes because we were not legally married.

It is so important to me that other same sex couples be allowed to marry and take care of one another without experiencing the additional social, financial, and systemic barriers that Theresa and I faced. I strongly support equal rights for LGBT couples and the Marriage Equality bill.

Mahalo,

Kimberly Allen
2922 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
808-398-8199

From: Kyle Lovett
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:18:00 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing
Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chairperson Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Rev. Kyle Ann Lovett, and I serve as the pastor of Church of the Crossroads, United Church of Christ, in Honolulu. I am writing in strong support of SB 1 and of marriage equality for Hawaii.

Twenty-one years ago, Church of the Crossroads declared itself open and affirming – welcoming into the full life and leadership of the church lesbian, gay bisexual, and transgender people. The church has celebrated holy unions, civil unions, and marriages for same-sex couples in our congregation, and we would dearly love to celebrate state-recognized marriages as well. Many Crossroaders have already written to you in support of HB1 and I do the same, not speaking for the church but for myself.

Thank you for the chance to provide this testimony.

Many of my clergy colleagues have also written to you thoughtfully about their theological perspective on marriage equality, their clarity about justice in the civic realm, and their stories of loving couples in their faith communities whose enduring life-commitments need recognition. I hope that the many testimonies you have received – by email, phone, in person, and in the public media – have helped you see what we, in Christianity in particular, know: there is not unanimity of opinion among faithful religious leaders and people of faith about marriage equality.

Nonetheless, there is no question at all in my mind: God blesses committed couples, regardless of their sex, gender, orientation, race, creed, or any other life condition.

The state has a vested interest in the stability of family units. Families of all configurations – ‘ohana large and small - face so many challenges in our day. There’s less and less in the way of social support, resources, and encouragement to help families to be stable units of society. Anything the state can do to support, acknowledge, and enhance stable, loving relationships is a good thing.

Why does marriage equality matter to me?

I have had the honor of officiating at same-sex weddings in California during the window in 2008 and same-sex civil unions in Hawaii beginning in 2012. That’s in addition to officiating at opposite-sex weddings as well. I have spent countless hours with families of all configurations as they struggle to sort out their lives together and to find honor and recognition from institutions both secular and sacred. Like it or not, recognition of worth and our interrelatedness are communicated through social institutions like the recognition of marriage.

Just this past weekend I spent many hours with three couples visiting Hawaii from California, here on vacation right now. One couple had already decided to get married here (in Maui), and the other two couples are seriously considering doing the same – inviting their friends and family from all over the United States and the world to meet them in Hawaii, to celebrate their lifelong commitment to each other. Of course, they can only do so if Hawaii enacts marriage equality.

Members of the church I serve flew to California last month to get married. Why? One of the women serves on active duty in the military, and their Hawaii Civil Union still didn’t allow her spouse to be recognized by the Navy. I’m sure you know that the military has granted 10 days of uncharged leave to same-sex couples who serve in states

that do not have marriage equality, so they can travel to states where marriage equality exists, to get married. This couple from the church I serve is just one example of the flood of people going elsewhere for their weddings, taking their travel, hotel, and celebration dollars with them—as well as the joy of their love and the memories of their wedding. I wouldn't be so crass as to argue for marriage equality in Hawaii just on economic impact alone, but it surely is a factor for a state with such a high percentage of its economy based on tourism.

The state decides which relationships it will recognize based on the state's interest. Religious groups decide which relationships they will consecrate, based on the faith group's values and teachings. You all are to be commended for having crafted legislation that masterfully allows the state to act in its best interest (and consistent with the recent Supreme Court ruling overturning Section 3 of DOMA), while also allowing religious organizations to decide for themselves how broad or narrow their ceremonies will be.

Please do not modify the exemption for churches and religious institutions, lest we codify discrimination.

Hawaii recognizes the complexity of family ties, of 'ohana, better than most states. Please do pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Rev. Kyle Lovett

HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP • 1727 PALI HIGHWAY • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 • PH: 522-9200 • FAX: 522-9209

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, SB1,
Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Auditorium Capitol Auditorium 415 South Beretania Street,
Testimony-In Person

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I would like to express my strong support of Senate Bill 1. The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is the largest Buddhist denomination in Hawaii with 33 temples throughout the State. For nearly 125 years, we have been sharing the message of an All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion which aspires for the peace and happiness of all existence. Guided by Great Wisdom and Compassion, we are encouraged to equally respect all people. The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's support of marriage equality is based on the equality of all people.

We believe that marriage equality is a basic civil right of any person. Further in any relationship, what is most important are the commitment, respect and trust that people bring to the relationship. The choice to marry the person you love is a freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples wish to marry for similar reasons as anyone else – to make a lifetime commitment filled with love and fidelity to the person they love.

I believe that religious freedom is adequately protected by the bill. It is clear that no member of the clergy will be required to perform a wedding ceremony with which he or she does not agree. On the other hand, the passage of the bill will provide clergy the opportunity to marry all individuals who are deeply committed to each other. It is clear that some religious denominations will perform marriages for same-gender couples, and some will not, just as some houses of worship perform interfaith marriages and some will not. This bill does not change this fact.

This bill expands religious freedom and rights to more people in our Nation through our State. I believe it is in the spirit of our great Nation and our Aloha State to welcome, embrace and provide for all people. I know our ministers would welcome the opportunity to perform weddings for same-gender couples as it also affirms our spiritual values. True Compassion and Aloha includes all!

I humbly ask for your support for same-gender couples having the right to marry in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

With gratitude and respect,

Eric T. Matsumoto
Bishop
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

From:	eileen mckee
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Cc:	Sen. Roz Baker
Subject:	Strong Support SB1, Relating to Equal Rights
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:02:03 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date: October 8, 2013, 10:30 am
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Support SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and labor:

I am writing in strong support of marriage equality in the state of Hawai'i.

After being together over 19 years, my wife and I were married in New York City on 11/4/11. A couple of days after that ceremony, one of us began the conversation of, "Do you feel different?" Even after being together for 19+ years, the commitment of marriage changed our feelings regarding our relationship. We tried to name this new feeling, and words like, "foundation," "solidness," "impenetrable," "untouchable," and "protected" kept coming up in our conversation. We had these new feelings even though DOMA had not yet fallen. There was a new strength to our relationship, a commitment that seemed even stronger than our 19 years together. This is an aspect that neither one of us anticipated.

There truly is a "steadfastness to this sturdy foundation" that is connected with marriage. This right should be available to all. Until the Supreme Court provides a ruling like that of the 1967 *Loving vs. Virginia* case that allowed interracial marriages throughout the United States, we must press for this right at the state level. I know in my heart that Hawai'i is ready to do what is pono to provide dignity to a minority that has been oppressed for years.

Let's finish the work that the State of Hawai'i started back in 1993; pass SB1.

Eileen McKee
279 Alaume St.
Kihei HI 96753

From: Deborah Cohn
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong Support SB1, Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:13:56 AM

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and labor:

My name is Deborah Cohn, and I live on Maui. I strongly support SB1 today to express what marriage equality means to me and my family

Next Monday, my wife and I will be celebrating our second wedding anniversary (we got married in New York City). I can't begin to express the feelings we felt that day. We had no idea that after almost 20 years together we would feel so different, so formable - a family, accepted by family, friends and society - dignity to our relationship.

But what happen to us upon our return home to Hawaii caused us to remember those old feelings again - our dignity slipping away again. Our marriage meant nothing to state of Hawaii. 2 months later our marriage was turn into a civil union. We didn't want a civil union, after 20 years together we wanted a marriage. So now here we are again but this time we have the support of the President of the United States, the Hawaii congressional delegation and it appears to be all of our Maui house reps and senators our family and friends - all wanting our marriage to be recognized.

Why does our marriage bother you? Our marriage agenda is the same as yours: love, commitment and family.

Now, each of you has an opportunity to right a wrong that has suppressed our community and made us feel less than equal. I ask you to stand up for marriage equality today.

Today, you have the power to be on the right side of history and show the rest of our country what America is all about.

I ask you now why is my marriage not as equal as yours and why doesn't my wife and I

deserve the dignity and respect that straight couples in this great state receive.

It is time now for marriage equality!

It is time now for our home state of Hawaii to recognize our Marriage as a marriage and not a Civil Union because it's the right thing to do!

Deborah Cohn

279 Alaume St.

Kihei, HI 96753

From: Russell Pederson
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:36:04 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Eternal damnation; or Eternal Salvation?
Marriage is essential to the Christian belief that sex before marriage is wrong, and that one needs to be married in the eyes of the law and God in order to preserve our souls from hell. This is why this bill is so important to so many people.
Shortly after September 11th, and after watching my mother during her passing from Multiple Sclerosis, I moved here to Hawaii. She was my rock, my salvation, and the closest person in my life. I moved here to follow in her footsteps, because she was a school teacher in Kahuku, and to get away from drugs, an empty, affection less father, and to BE MYSELF. Because, I have same sex attraction.
I saw Hawaii as a place where one with same sex attraction could express themselves without repercussions, without prejudice, and without shame. Unfortunately, this is not entirely true; although one with same sex attraction can be welcomed by the Hawaii Ohana with Aloha, we still lack the right to marry our loved ones under the law, so as to fulfill our religious beliefs that to be married is the only way to be able to have sexual relations without fear of eternal damnation in hell.
Please, allow us to practice our religion, and practice our personal choice of whom to love, and save us from the feeling that we'll be damned for having same sex attraction. Please, pass this bill, and allow us the freedom to marry whom we love, and to be at peace with our Heavenly Father.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Russell Pederson
950 Laki Road
Honolulu, HI 96817

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Hearing Date: October 28, 2013
Hearing Time: 10:30 a.m.
Place: State Capitol Auditorium

To: The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

From: Tambry R. Young

Regarding: S.B. 1: RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS - Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tambry Young and I am asking you to support the passage of SB1. I am a mother, a native Hawaiian born and raised in Hawaii, a small business owner and have been committed to Suzanne for the past 32 years. On November 13, 1999 Suzanne and I, along with our families and many friends, celebrated the birth of our daughter Shylar. Before we had Shylar, Suzanne and I, as most LGBT couples, went about our lives, finishing college, building our professional careers, participating in organized community activities, basically living our lives supporting each other and maturing together.

In 1996, Suzanne and I decided that we wanted to have a child. This decision came with much thought and consideration - what options we had in conceiving her, how we would raise her, could we financially handle having a child, and what would she face as a child being raised by two mothers. For many couples who decide to have children, some of these questions may be similar. For Suzanne and me, the primary considerations were how do we ensure the safety and well-being of Shylar. From the moment she was conceived we began looking into what we needed to do to accomplish this.

In 1999, we began the legal process of a same-sex co-parent adoption, which would give both the biological parent, me, and the same gender non-biological parent, Suzanne, the same parental rights to Shylar. We assumed this process would take many years, because at that time there had been only one other case in Hawaii that had taken place. Our hope was that by the time Shylar began kindergarten, a decision giving us a same gender co-parent adoption would be granted. Fortunately after careful consideration by the Family Court judge in 2000, we were granted the adoption. At this point we believed we had become a family just like everyone else.

However, this was not the case. In many instances we would have to show Shylar's birth certificate to show parental status. Carrying around her birth certificate was essential to show our status. While in emergency situations, we have been denied joint access to Shylar because authorities said they only allow parents in the room at the same time. While the few paragraphs above may seem off topic, the

discussion of our real life experiences is important to the understanding of what is being considered in SB1.

I am fully aware of, and can accept how many people feel that it is a lifestyle choice or that is goes against their religious beliefs. I can also give you my thoughts on why this was not a choice for me and religious scholars can give you passages within the context of religion supporting the passage of this bill. But I am sure you have heard it all before. My justification for the passage of SB1 comes from a very simple place, from the eyes of our daughter.

On November 7th 2009, after 28 years together and with Shylar who was 9 at the time, Suzanne and I were married in Salem, Massachusetts. During the 2009 fight for Civil Unions (CU) here in Hawaii, our focus was about securing the rights, benefits, responsibilities and protections that would be provided in a CU law.

Shylar attended legislative hearings, rallies and meetings relating to the CU movement at that time and our discussions with her focused on why it was important that families like ours received all the rights that other families received. We believed that Shylar felt we were just like all the other families in her class and we believed she felt that her family was being treated like all the other families in her class.

However, on November 8th the day after we were married in Massachusetts we purchased an item at a Boston mall and Shylar questioned Suzanne about why she was not signing her name as Suzanne Young because we got married yesterday and we are all Young's now. This is when we realized that being married meant more than just being granted rights; it was, to Shylar, a symbol of what made us a family.

Shylar is now 13 and turning 14 in November and celebrated the passage of CU in 2011, with many here in Hawaii. As we have seen her grow and mature into a teenager we know that she realizes our marriage is not being treated the same as others and unfortunately, she is aware of the difference between a civil union and a marriage.

Throughout this current marriage equality movement there has been discussion about the negative impact of it on children. I can assure you that the impact of the passage of marriage equality in Hawaii for our daughter would only be positive. For Shylar, passage of this law would validate her family, would make her feel she is just like other families in her class and uphold the principles of civil rights that she is currently studying.

Again I ask for your support of SB1, and thank you for the opportunity to testify on this law that will have a major impact on Suzanne and me, and a very positive impact on our daughter Shylar.

From: Michele Nihipali
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:10:03 AM

Aloha Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

The Supreme Court has ruled that denying same sex couples the benefits of marriage is not legal. Discrimination is never acceptable and the public should not be allowed to "vote" on discrimination. If public sentiment was allowed to dictate equal rights issues, women would never have been allowed to vote, African Americans would still be slaves, there would be no "interracial" marriages allowed and the "plantation era of forced labor would be in effect here in Hawaii.

Religious beliefs are just that, beliefs. Our nation guarantees that we have the freedom to express our beliefs and that we are all created equal. In the coming days, don't let beliefs sway your decision to protect equality. You are charged with protecting and extending legal rights to all citizens of Hawaii. The right to join in marriage is one of those legal rights. Show the nation and the world that Hawaii does not tolerate discrimination.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Michele Nihipali
54-074 A Kam Hwy.
Hauula, HI 96717
293-1522

From: Sally Waitt
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:11:26 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. We must realize that we are who we are, and that we all deserve equality.

Throughout my years of teaching, I did my best to guide students in the importance of consideration, fairness, and kindness. For many of the early years, I was unaware that much of the teasing, taunts, and bullying was directed against students who were suspected of being lesbian or gay. But, then it all changed as students began to confide more of their personal issues. Some told of how terrified they were that their parents would find out they were "gay". Then, in the 1990's, a boy told me that his father threatened to kill him if he were to find out that his son was gay. He begged me not to say anything, because he would soon graduate and could move. It was then I realized how important it is to be sure to recognize all people and families as equal under the law.
In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sally Waitt
PO Box 492757
39th Street at Laniuma
Keaau, HI 96749

From: David Lyman
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: SB 1 testimony
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:14:30 AM

To the Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Regarding measure number SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights
Date: October 27, 2013
Time: 10:00 am
David Lyman, a resident of Honolulu, testifying in person.

Aloha. Mahalo for being brave enough to stand for those who are less fortunate than you.

The civil rights bill, SB 1, will finally provide legal equality to a persecuted minority group. How many of you know a person who is gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender who has lost a job due to their orientation? Who has lost or housing? Who has been excluded from their family? Who has been bullied or beaten? Friends of mine have experienced all these things. GLBT people today are systematically persecuted, and you have the ability to fight that persecution today.

I am very happily married to a woman, and I love her very deeply. This affords me privileges denied to many Americans. I cannot imagine the depth of pain I would feel if the law prevented me from fully participating in a relationship with her.

Most Hawaiians believe it is time to extend equal rights to all citizens. The percentage of people who want marriage equality grows constantly. In a few years public opinion will be even more in our favor. Your children will be shocked to read in history books that so many Americans wanted to legally discriminate against a persecuted minority group.

You have the chance today to vote to be on the right side of history. You will be able to say to your keiki that you stood for fairness, equality, and a basic right to happiness for all. As my dear departed sister-in-law, who ran an LGBT student advocacy group, proclaimed, “The only right time for equal rights is right now.”

Mahalo.

INTERNATIONAL SISTERHOOD OF WITCHES AND AMALGAMATED MAGICKS

October 27, 2013

Yngvildr Blzxpaeth, G.M.
Int. Sisterhood of Witches and Amalg. Magicks, Local 665
P.O. Box 1901
Honolulu, HI 96805

Re: S.B. 1, Relating to Equal Rights

Hail and Gesundheit,

The International Sisterhood of Witches and Amalgamated Magicks, Local 665, ascends in strong support for the passage of Senate Bill 1, Relating to Equal Rights. This unholy union was formed through the recent merger of the International Sisterhood of Witches, Wise Women, and Sorceresses and the Consolidated Honorable Order of Amalgamated Magicks, Wizards, Seers, and Mystics, as you probably know.

Although many have claimed that legal recognition of civil marriages between same-sex couples is supported by the Prince of Darkness, we would like the Legislature to know that through a recent communion with the Evil One, we Sisters have learned that he has no opinion on same-sex marriage, as he takes more souls from heterosexual people already.

On the other hand, the federal tax benefits and state law protections that same-sex couples would gain through the passage of Senate Bill 1 would greatly aid local members of the International Sisterhood. Although most lesbians are not witches, most witches are lesbians and consequently they face constant discrimination against both their craft and religion.

Thank you for your support of organized labor and the interests of the worthy members of the International Sisterhood of Witches and Amalgamated Magicks.

So it is Written,

Yngvildr Blzxpaeth
Grand Mistress, Local 665

D'AMATO & MALONEY
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP
PIONEER PLAZA
900 Fort Street, Suite 1680
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
(808) 546-5200; 546-5203(f)
www.benefitslawyers.com

October 26, 2013

Via Fax: 586-7334
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium

RE: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

This urges you to vote in favor of SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights.

This issue is one of civil rights. Today, Gay and Lesbian couples may enter into civil unions, and enjoy all the benefits of marriage under Hawai'i law. Yet they may not call themselves, "married." This difference is crucial. It means that their relationships—their families—are second class families and that they are denied the respect and recognition to which they should be entitled.

In the *Windsor* case, the Supreme Court announced that the Federal government may not establish a two tier system and relegate Gay and Lesbian couples to the second tier. What the Federal government may not do, the Hawai'i State government also may not do. The time has come to make Hawai'i law *pono* and to afford Gay and Lesbian couples full rights to participate in Hawai'i's society on the same footing as heterosexual couples.

It is said that the People should decide this issue. But if the State may not establish a two tier system and relegate Gay and Lesbian couples to the second tier, neither may the People. Deferring action on S.B. 1 would simply subject the State to years' more litigation and Gay and Lesbian families to years' more discrimination.

It is said that allowing Gay and Lesbian couples to call themselves, "married," will infringe on religious liberties. But S.B. 1 does not require anyone who believes that marriage may only be between a man and a woman to change their beliefs. It establishes only that private, religious beliefs about who may marry, and who may not marry, are not and cannot be the basis of public law.

It is said that allowing Gay and Lesbian couples to call themselves, "married," will fundamentally change society in the State of Hawai'i. But through civil unions, Gay and Lesbian couples already have access to all of the rights and benefits of marriage under Hawai'i

law. Further, Gay or Lesbian couples may now go to any of the 14 jurisdictions in the United States in which same sex marriage is permitted, marry in such a jurisdiction, and return to Hawai‘i as married couples. Denying Gay and Lesbian couples the right to marry under Hawai‘i law, does not keep any such couple from marrying. It merely denies them the comfort of marrying in the State of their home and knowing that their personal commitments to one another are recognized in that State for what they are—“marriages.”

Both ancient and modern Hawai‘i Government is based on the Law of the Splintered Paddle—the recognition that Government’s most important function is that of protecting the rights of citizens.

Rarely do leaders have the opportunity to make a fundamental and historic difference in people’s lives. Please take this opportunity to make marriage equality the law of this State.

Thank you for your consideration,

s/John D’Amato

From: Charlotte Huszcza
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:03:56 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Charlotte Huszcza
92-966 Makakilo Dr. #50
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: derrick morita
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:05:11 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

derrick morita
235 nonou st
honolulu, HI 96825

From: Kory Rosette
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:06:07 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kory Rosette
722 Maluniu Ave
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Kimberly Washington
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:12:54 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kimberly Washington
180-2 Noke St
Kailia, HI 96734

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	isaiahchong@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date:	Tuesday, October 22, 2013 7:05:41 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/22/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Isaiah Chong	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: "We will never have true civilization until we have learned to recognize the rights of others." That is a quote from the late Will Rogers, and it stands true to this very day. To whom it may concern, this herein is my humble and honest opinion, the opinion that I would like to share with ye. On June 12, 1967, the United States Supreme Court made a historic ruling in Loving v. Virginia, in the chief justice's opinion for the unanimous court he said, "[m]arriage is one of the `basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival...." Now on June 26, 2013, the US Supreme Court made two more historic rulings, they ruled on the side of equality by striking down section three of the Defense of Marriage Act and reinstating a previous ruling on California's Proposition 8. But it is you all, our elected representatives, who in Hawaii, constitutionally, have been tasked with making this decision; a decision that should not be taken with a grain of salt. In 1993, the Hawaii Supreme Court made a first of its kind ruling in the world, and I need not quote it, because I am fairly sure ye have read it or heard about it. But I do ask the Hawaii legislature and its committees to legislate on the fair side of the law and court rulings. May we focus for a moment on the many armed forces members in Hawaii and let us remember the situation of US Army Chief Warrant Officer Charlie Morgan, a lesbian service member, who was married in New Hampshire, and died before the DOMA repeal, her wife's survivor benefits were delayed. Since the ruling on DOMA, deceased service members' same-sex spouses, will receive the survivor benefits if they and the deceased person were legally married; Hawaii at this time does not allow same-sex marriage, and because of that we put our gay and lesbian soldiers, marines, airmen, sailors and coast guards and their families at risk. Should our brave defenders die, their same-sex spouses will not receive any federal benefits because a civil union, as similar as it may be, is not a marriage, and those in civil unions aren't eligible for any federal benefits. Must we keep denying our military men and women, who risk their lives, a basic human right? Must we continue denying the residents of Hawaii a basic human right? Hawaii has always been very diverse, welcoming, and open: Why should our legislature not recognize it as such? Though many religious leaders, including The Right Reverend Robert Fitzpatrick, Bishop of Hawaii (Anglican Communion,) have spoken in support or signed petitions in support of marriage equality, others have spoken against it. When debating same-sex marriage, our

legislators must remember that their faith has no place in legislation and they must remain secular and do what is best, just, and fair for the people of Hawaii. When elected, you all were tasked with passing legislation that is in our best interest, those laws must be in line with the basic law of the United States, the US Constitution, and in line with the basic law of Hawaii, the State Constitution, both constitutions prohibit discrimination and the Hawaii Constitution tasks the legislature to decide on the definition of marriage. By virtue of our two constitutions, it is the responsibility of the legislature to pass marriage equality because not allowing it is a form of discrimination and it is a sad, pathetic, miscarriage of justice! I have spent my entire life in the Moku‘aina o Hawai‘i, I have seen people of all races, cultures, and faiths together in harmony. Hawaii, in my opinion has never been a discriminatory place. But unfortunately, I'm wrong, Hawaii is discriminatory... By denying same-sex couples the right of marriage, it is discriminatory. I live in paradise, I want to continue to live in paradise. I would love to continue to share the paradise I live in with holidaymakers, engaged couples and newlyweds, and we would have more people from each of those groups coming to Hawaii if we had marriage equality. Many couples travel to our ‘aina to wed each year, they have the well dreamt of and fantasized wedding in Hawaii, even same-sex couples dream of a Hawaiian beachfront wedding, why should Hawaii deny them the right to fulfill their dreams!? Aloha: Aloha means hello, it means good bye, but most importantly... It means love, we are the Aloha State, we must live up to our state's nickname! In 1998 the residents of Hawaii appointed the legislature to make decisions of marriage, now my elected representatives and senators, it is time for you to do as the people of Hawaii voted for, it is time to end the discriminatory restrictions on marriage. Any of you reading this may disagree with same-sex marriage for your own personal reasons, be it upbringing, culture, faith, or any other particular reason... But it is your reason, should you let your opinions and/or reasoning affect others? Any person's opinion in objection to marriage equality, sir or ma'am, is not of any value to a couple in a loving relationship who seeks to marry; They see the love of their life before them, their soul mate, most importantly the one they want to marry. As I write this testimony, my eyes fill with tears, as I imagine the suffering same-sex couples seeking to wed feel, the immense sadness and hopelessness. Honorable members elected to represent us, I ask that you think of your wedding, or a wedding you've attended, I would like you to picture how happy the couple was on that day, I further ask you to think of the countless tears that are shed daily, by loving couples who are forbidden to marry in this state. I simply close in saying: Honorable Members of the House, Honorable Senators, ye took an oath to protect and defend the constitution of the US and Hawaii, how are ye defending it? To defend it, is to defend the parts of it that is recognized as demanding all people be treated equal, if a man and a woman can wed, equally a woman and a woman should be allowed to marry, same goes for a man and a man. As the old saying goes "what is good for the goose, is good for the gander." What is allowed for a straight person, equally, must be allowed for a gay person. Not long a go a white man was not allowed to marry a black woman; not long ago Rosa Parks was forced off her seat on the bus, under arrest; not long ago young Matthew Shepherd lost his life because he was gay... Today interracial marriage is not only allowed, but fully embraced; Today a black woman may gladly and proudly sit anywhere she pleases; Sadly, gay young men and women, are still bullied and tormented, how can we, as a society, denounce bullying and homophobia if our laws

still reflect inequality? Inequality is bullying-by-law! Don't be bullies, be parliamentarians, statesmen and women, serve your community and serve the greater good. Ua mau ke ea o ka ‘aina i ka pono, our state's motto. It means "the life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness," my elected legislators, I ask you humbly to look in to your hearts, and to perpetuate righteousness through legislation. Mahalo, Isaiah Nahaku‘okeola Chong.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senate JDL Committee
Public Hearing, 10/28/13, 10:30 am
SB1: **Support**
In-Person Testimony: Alan R. Spector, Kaneohe

Members of the Senate JDL Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify today in strong support of SB1, Hawaii's Marriage Equality Bill. I am Alan Spector and I live in Kaneohe with my husband, Jon-Paul Bingham. I am the Co-Founder of Equality Hawaii and led the organization from 2007-2011. I have testified before this committee many times, but always on behalf of Equality Hawaii. This is the first time I am sharing my personal story.

Imagine getting married to the person you love. This is the happiest day in your life. At the conclusion of the ceremony, your parents hug your spouse and say, "Welcome to the Family." Now imagine, shortly after your marriage, your spouse is at risk for being deported from the USA and you have absolutely no legal recourse since the Federal Gov't doesn't recognize your marriage, doesn't recognize your status as family, and considers you absolutely nothing to each other. How would you feel?

Well that was me after I fell in love with and married an Australian, Jon-Paul Bingham, who was in the USA doing a post-doctoral fellowship at UCSF. He was in our country legally on a special work visa sponsored by the university. Unfortunately, due to an unanticipated loss of funding, his position was eliminated. No employer sponsor = no visa = return to Australia. This was the predicament we found ourselves in just after our wedding. It was a catastrophic tragedy. Of course, if we were an opposite sex couple, our marriage would have been recognized and I would have been able to sponsor my foreign-born spouse for US Permanent Residency, aka "Green Card." But since we were considered legal strangers and our marital status was not recognized, we were at serious risk for being separated.

I did what any loving husband would do. Separation from Jon-Paul was not an option and I would stay with him at all costs. We got lucky. Unlike most couples in our situation back in those Pre-DOMA repeal days, we weren't separated. My husband was able to obtain a new post-doctoral fellowship at another university, however, it required a cross country move. So off I went, sight unseen, to New Haven, CT. This enabled us to stay together, however, it was a great sacrifice. Not only were we dealing with the adjustment issues of any newlywed couple, we were doing so in a new environment, with no support system, and with me being unemployed. To make matters worse, I had to cope with a range of feelings of loss and anger associated with this forced move and invalidation by my country.

Our love enabled us to make the best of a bad situation and we built a new life for ourselves in Connecticut. Unfortunately, just three years later, it happened again when his laboratory decided to relocate to another university, 400 miles away in another state. It was either move with the job or Jon-Paul would lose his H1-B visa. So move again we did, only this time the adjustment was much harder as I became unemployed and couldn't find work in my field for 1.5 years. Eventually, due to his scientific research, my husband was able to apply for Permanent Residency as a self-petition based on the criteria of "Outstanding Researcher" and obtained a green card in 2005. We subsequently moved to Hawaii in 2007 when he was recruited by UH.

Fast forward to 2013 and the United States Supreme Court has repealed DOMA. Same-sex married couples are now treated the same as opposite-sex married couples under federal law. Our marriages are recognized and we are considered family under immigration law. But these rights don't extend to couples in civil unions. I am asking this committee to please pass SB1 so no binational same-sex couple in Hawaii will have to be faced with a similar ordeal as Jon-Paul and me.

Mahalo for your time.

From:	Donald Munro
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Marriage Equality
Date:	Tuesday, October 22, 2013 7:52:24 PM

My partner and I have lived together for 47 years. He is a WW2, Normandy Invasion Veteran. I served in a Middle Eastern War in the British Army. I immigrated to the United States in 1966 and became a citizen in 1972. We vote in every election. We are small independent business men who have employed many people over the last 47 years. As such, we have paid a lot of taxes.We belong to community organisations. I am my neighborhood's Security Watch co-ordinator.

We are model citizens but, where marriage is concerned, we are treated as second class. We are 92 and 76. At these ages, the protections and privileges of Marriage are very important but we are denied them because we are homosexual. We didn't ask to be homosexual. We didn't decide to be homosexual. We were born homosexual - just as other people were born heterosexual.

The medical establishment of the United States confirms that this is not a matter of choice.

Why then are we denied the equal rights that the constitution guarantees us. Our marriage poses no danger to heterosexual marriage. In fact we have already lived together for far longer than the majority of heterosexual marriages and religion has nothing to do with Constitutional rights. Religion is a matter of private belief and in no way overules the Constitution.

The elected representatives of the people are elected to PROTECT the rights of all the people and not just some of the people.

Donald Munro

My name is Kent West and I am 49 years old. My partner and I just celebrated our 22nd anniversary of being together. That is 22 years that we as a couple have been denied access to 1,000+ benefits and privileges, including protections under the law, that are currently exclusive to traditionally married couples.

My partner and I are American citizens, born and raised in the "good ole U.S. of A." We both have been working since the age of 15, and we continue working to this day as productive and contributing working class American citizens earning our hard earned paychecks, as well as paying our fair share of taxes. Of our combined 68 years of being in the workforce, the taxes we have paid have contributed to the coffers of both the State and Federal Governments, and yet we are denied equal access to 1,000+ benefits, privileges and protections of marriage that our tax dollars fund on both the State and Federal level.

As a direct and immediate result of the opposition to Marriage Equality, American born citizens are being denied the right to equality. The very rights defined by the forefathers of this great country: ....that all men/women are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

The rhetoric from the opposition to Marriage Equality is that this is an all-out effort to redefine the 'Institution ' of marriage. It should be unequivocally clear and understood that this is in no way an effort to redefine marriage. This is simply and exclusively about equality and equal access to 1,000+ marriage benefits, privileges and protections that are provided by both the State and Federal government.

The rhetoric from the opposition to Marriage Equality is to 'Let the People vote'. Historically American voters have proven themselves inconsistent in voting on Civil Rights Issues, especially ones that are as sensitive as this. Ultimately it has been the Government that has had to make the final decision. This is fact.

The rhetoric from the opposition to Marriage Equality is that they don't wish to have this 'forced into their lives', yet their current opposition to me and my partner marrying is forced into our lives every single day whether we like it or not.

Let me ask the opposition and the voters this. How does you marrying the person that you love, directly or indirectly impact the quality of my life? How does me marrying the person that I love, directly or indirectly impact the quality of life for you and your family? The answer is it doesn't. However, the oppositions current stance on me marrying the person that I love directly and indirectly impacts the quality of my life, my partner's life and our families lives, every single day.

Do you know how it feels to NOT have equal rights, as promised under the law, as American born citizens? My partner and I do. Do any of you know how it feels to fear not being able to be there for your loved one in the event they are incapacitated? My partner and I do. Do any of you know how it feels to fear losing everything you and your loved one has built together in the event of a death? My partner and I do. Do any of you know how it feels to feel like you don't count or matter or like you are a non-citizen? My partner and I do. Do any of you know how it feels to be excluded? My partner and I do. We experience all of this every minute of every day of our lives as a direct result of individuals like those who are opposed to Marriage Equality. To them I say,

put yourself in our shoes and spend just 1 day living in our fears and see how it makes you feel.

It is time that we stop living in fear. Hate is not a family value. Love is.

Being gay or straight is not something that someone just decides to be. Everybody is born just the way our Creator has made us. To NOT move Marriage Equality forward would send the message that it is okay to continue to perpetuate hate, intolerance, bigotry, judgment, exclusion, non-acceptance and to self loathe who you are not only as an individual but also the community and your fellow citizen.

Hawaii and the Aloha spirit have been part of me and my partner's lives for 22 years, ever since we first came to the islands in 1991. We traveled to and from Hawaii for 12 years, knowing that one day we would be kama'aina. We have been kama'aina and taxpayers for over 10 years now, lovingly embraced, accepted and hanai'ed by a multitude of amazing and beautiful people, except by those who oppose Marriage Equality.

It has always been a priority for both of us to foster, embody and practice Aloha daily in our lives.

What is Aloha?

A-Akahai, meaning kindness to be expressed with tenderness

L-Lôkahi, meaning unity, to be expressed with harmony

O-`Olu`olu, meaning agreeable, to be expressed with pleasantness

H-Ha`aha`a, meaning humility, to be expressed with modesty

A-Ahonui, meaning patience, to be expressed with perseverance

This is why we live in Hawaii. This is why we live in the Aloha state.

It is time for each one of us individually, as well as everyone here collectively, to remember what being in Hawaii and what being Aloha is about. Aloha is about community. Community is Common-Unity. Aloha is about ohana. Ohana is family. Aloha is about inclusion, not exclusion. Aloha is about diversity, not intolerance, nor bigotry, nor hatred. My charge to all of you here today is to embody and begin practicing from this moment forward, the meaning of Aloha. Our charge from our universal Creator is to love one another.

Moving Marriage Equality forward in Hawaii nei is the pono thing to do. Marriage Equality is not about redefining or renaming the institution of marriage. It is simply about equal access to 1,000+ benefits, privileges and protections that become available to couples when they take vows to be partners in life.

Now is the time for Hawaii to demonstrate to the world what Aloha really means by passing Marriage Equality for everyone.

Ho'o maika'i ke akua

From: LCicotello@Gmail.com
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 10:57:54 PM
Importance: High

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1

Hearing: 10:30 a.m., Monday, Oct. 28, 2013, Auditorium, State Capitol

Aloha Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro, Senator Ihara, Senator Solomon, Senator Galuteria, Senator Slom and Senator Gabbard:

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify before you this morning. My name is Laurie Cicotello and I flew here from Kaua‘i to testify. I come before you today in Full Support of Senate Bill 1 to legalize Same-Sex Marriage in Hawai‘i. I represent COLAGE, which envisions a world in which all children of LGBT families are valued, protected, reflected and embraced by society and its institutions.

I strongly believe unions between two consenting adults should be treated equally under the law and as protected by the United States Constitution and upheld in a recent SCOTUS ruling. Senate Bill 1 would provide the same rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities to partners, regardless of their sexual orientation. Children of same-sex couples are currently without many of the family protections and benefits provided to children of opposite-sex couples. Families like mine and their children will benefit from the passage of Senate Bill 1.

My parents are proudly celebrating 44 years in a now same-sex marriage

that remains in legal limbo in several states, despite my folks committing in front of God, their family and friends to "Let No One Rend Asunder" their wedding vows on Feb. 1, 1969, at a Catholic church in Milwaukee. More than 25 years ago, my parent, Dainna, completed the transition from male to female. She and my mom, Mary, decided to stay together and remain married during this intensely personal and emotional change. They are the first couple in the United States to remain legally married following Dainna's transition.

People from all walks of life over the years have told me they feel my parent's marriage is not only "disgusting and sinful," but that their vows are "null and void." It hurts to be told to my face that "children are better off raised in traditional families," whatever traditional means in this day and age. I have a highly successful career as a writer, editor and educator. Much better off being raised in a nontraditional family, I am moral, healthy and wildly happy!! I also have a great deal more compassion for all family structures.

To that end, I join my parents and countless other 'ohana across the country in fighting for equality and justice within the law. As my parents travel the country, we are never sure which states will still recognize their marriage and their commitment to "Let No One Rend Asunder" their vows.

In 1996, Colorado overturned State Amendment 2 after the United States Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in Romer v. Evans that "an identifiable group of people could not be walled off from the legal system." Because marriages are

first and foremost legal contracts and agreements, the proof of which is that while many, but not all, weddings take place in churches, ALL divorces must take place in a courtroom. Thus, not allowing a certain identifiable group of people to enter into a legal contract effectively walls them off from the legal system.

There is also no way to define the terms, “male,” “female,” “man,” or “woman,” legally or otherwise and no criteria to write those definitions. We are more alike than we are different on every consideration. For example, the International Olympic Committee stopped chromosomal testing in 1994 after finding too many athletes were not exclusively XX or XY.

In addition to supporting the legalization of same-sex marriages, I also kindly ask that Hawai‘i honor the “Full Faith and Credit” afforded under the United States Constitution regarding marriages, civil unions, domestic partnerships or similar legal recognitions between two consenting adults.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration and support of Senate Bill a recognizing Same-Sex Marriages. Thank you for your consideration and support of my family and all families like mine.

Imua Hawai‘i!

Laurie Cicotello

4441 Rice St., Box 387

Lihue, HI 96766

From: CHASTEL Serge
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:03:33 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

CHASTEL Serge
2063 St Louis Drive
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Glory Acidera
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:09:00 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I believe that everyone is created equal and should be treated equally. I teach my children what I believe in. . . no matter who you are, what color you are, or even what gender. . .We are ALL human beings. . . .there is no "category" in life. . .we live life as human beings there is no white, black, gay or bi. . .we are human beings. We are ALL equal!!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Glory Acidera
2238-A Lokelani St.
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: Robert Bright
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:27:29 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am a gay man who has been in a committed relationship for 14 year. I pay taxes and contribute time and energy to my community. However, I cannot enjoy the full state and federal liberties that apply to married couples.

My love and commitment to my partner deserves full equality and protection as any other hetero couple would enjoy. My partner deserves to collect my social security benefits after my death.

We urge you to pass SB 1 to allow marriage equality for all consenting adult couples. We urge you not to be swayed by those who fear change.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robert Bright
1645 Ala Wai Blvd #603
Apt 603
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Thoams Nissel
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:36:32 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thoams Nissel
775 Kinalau Place #2002
2002
Honolulu, HI 96813

[PASS]
THE PACIFIC ALLIANCE TO STOP SLAVERY

February 12th 2013

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr.
Senator Sam Slom
Senator Mike Gabbard
Senator Brickwood Galuteria
Senator Malama Soloman

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium – Chamber Level
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF **SB1**
RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

Recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex. Extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

Dear Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Many of you know me, Kathryn Xian, as an advocate of anti Human Trafficking legislation. As the director of the Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery, I have met child victims of sex trafficking who are LGBT. They become sex trafficked due to their vulnerability as homeless youth. How do they become homeless?-- because of their rejection by their 'ohana-- rejection often fueled by religious homophobia. This spiritual wounding is a form of child abuse which leads not only to youth homelessness but to drug abuse, depression, sexual exploitation, and teen suicide. *see graphic attached

These children do not receive support from their families or churches who unjustifiably condemn them for their sexuality. However, the issue before you is not a religious issue. It is an equal rights issue. Lawmakers must uphold the separation of church and state and honor the equal rights of all citizens; rights afforded to everyone after great historical struggle.

60 years ago the political upheaval was over race. Now we risk a backsliding into institutionalized discrimination, influenced by the religious right, by not recognizing the class disparity of the LGBT community.

[PASS]
THE PACIFIC ALLIANCE TO STOP SLAVERY

Some argue that, unlike race, sexuality is a choice. It is not. Sexuality is an integral part of one's identity. Those who are not LGBT-identified have no right to define the identities of people in the LGBT community.

It is our priority, as a community, to ensure the protection, safety, and equal rights of all our people. Marriage Equality is an absolute necessity to establish that no class of people may be marginalized by the state and treated like second class citizens. It will also show LGBT-identified youth that the overall LGBT community has such equal protection by the state and that their rights shall be kept unadulterated regardless of their sexual orientation.

As a Christian, I respectfully ask you not to cast your vote based on the coercion of homophobic fundamental Christians but upon the premise of freedom, liberty and equality for all. It's time we start healing our diverse community as leaders tasked with the kuleana of protecting all citizens regardless of race, gender, class, or sexual orientation.

Thank you for hearing this much needed legislation.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Xian
Executive Director
Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery

Healing Our Community by Recognizing Religious Homophobia

LGBT YOUTH, who experience high levels of REJECTION from their families, are:

6x more likely to suffer from MAJOR DEPRESSION, and

8x more likely to ATTEMPT SUICIDE

...compared to their non-LGBT peers. [1]

Among LGBT YOUTH,

90% were HARASSED or ASSAULTED, [2] and

over **30%** ATTEMPTED SUICIDE. [3]

An estimated **20%** to **40%** of HOMELESS YOUTH are LGBT-identified. [4]

In 2011, Hawai'i public school students reported that they: [5]

MIDDLE SCHOOL		HIGH SCHOOL
6,800 (25.8%)	Experienced Depression	12,700 (29.5%)
5,900 (22.5%)	Considered Suicide	7,100 (16.1%)
4,100 (15.5%)	Planned Suicide	6,600 (15.0%)
2,400 (9.2%)	Attempted Suicide	3,200 (8.6%)
2,800 (10.4%)	Hospitalized for Attempted Suicide	1,300 (3.4%)

YOUTH THAT IDENTIFY AS LGBT: 3,100 (7.3%)

Sources Cited

1. Ryan, C. Supportive families, healthy children: Helping families with lesbian, gay, bisexual, & transgender children. San Francisco, CA: Merian Wright Edelman Institute, San Francisco State University, 2009.
2. 2005 GLSEN National Student Climate Survey
3. Suicide Prevention Resource Center. (2008). Suicide risk and prevention for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth. Newton, MA: Education Development Center, Inc. <http://www.sprc.org/library/SPRC_LGBT_Youth.pdf>.
4. Ray, N. (2006). Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth: An epidemic of homelessness. New York: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute and the National Coalition for the Homeless.
5. Hawaii Health Data Warehouse; State of Hawaii, Hawaii School Health Survey: Youth Risk Behavior Survey Module, Report Created: 2/13/2013. Retrieved August 27, 2013 from http://www.ksbe.edu/spi/PDFS/Reports/Demography_Well-being/yrbs/.

From: Rita Kanui
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:18:40 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Before there is the computerized version of my support for SB 1, I would like to state a few historical, cultural and spiritual issues that will help this legislature to pass this bill from a Kanaka Hawaii perspective, that intertwines with our ancient of history of the aikane...who was not just the lover of the King Liholiho but a fighting partner in times of wars...we call them mahus today...back then, they were aikane, not just a friend with King Liholiho but his lover, protector, confidant, family, spiritual guide, provider of the household and many other things as partners and lovers...we call them mahus today...which is a western way of degrading something and someone very sensitive, spiritual, strong, intelligent, with a heart and soul...most couples in western ways do not understand infact they act as they despise these mahus...who by the way are plentiful in the Hawaiian household and nation...which we still are today, separate and independently functioning as an independent country.

Coupled with what is written in this testimony, as a kahu from Waimanalo and a long time worker for our own legal independence...I see no difference in us or the gay population...we are all human, who wants a better life and if that life is to live it with someone of the same sex and that relationship is respected and held to the highest of standards...there can only be peace for all people in Hawaii, for we are not prejudice towards the same sex marriage of two people of the same sex...except when it starts to cross over the line that protects those of us who are straight, that they respect the laws of our country...we shall see how everything goes...we wish those couples their happiness with their children and let the world live in peace and happiness...just prepare for it in a good way.

First of all, this whole issue has gotten out of hand by modern day politics and politicians who have forgotten who we are and where we came from as a people.

Second of all, as kanaka Hawaii and in our history and culture to have a same sex partner was a very spiritual to have a male sensitive to female tendencies of the heart, mind and soul.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic God given freedom (yes, I said a God given freedom) since, no one can prove it is not...in the Bible...therefore, should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as so called straight people do... – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. The business of the government is to do what is pono, before it has to shut its doors because of no funding...which would be a blessing in disguise...because then, same sex marriage will still be here for the Hawaiian Government to pass anyway, because they are are bent on or spend their time to block such measures that are good for the people, the economy and the aina.

For all these reasons please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rita Kanui
41-169 Poliala Street
Waimanalo, HI 96795

From: Matthew LoPresti
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:17:46 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Marriage equality is a the single greatest civil rights issue of our day. The simple and straightforward arguments for marriage equality are of two kinds: (1) practical and (2) moral.

On the practical side, the State of Hawaii must act now to bring state law in line with SCOTUS's recent ruling requiring that same sex couples be allowed equal access to the same rights and privileges of other married couples and that this essentially means that marriage equality is the only constitutional way to ensure such equal treatment under the law.

The moral argument concerns respecting the liberties of our GLBT brothers and sisters and treating them as those of us who may be straight wish to be treated. This means that we cannot reasonably or ethically discriminate and create second-class status that condones one group of persons who wish to marry while limiting the rights of another group who wishes to also have their loving relationships recognized on an equal footing. This is basic.

Sadly, numerous poorly reasoned counter-arguments abound opposed to gay marriage alleging fallacious harms or insisting upon deliberately absurd slippery slopes that suggest if we allow gay marriage then we will soon face a need to condone a motley list of completely unrelated unions. As for the former, no alleged harms have ever upheld under even the least bit of scrutiny and faux scientific studies have been objectively discredited. And as for the later, the supposed slippery slopes that you will have heard, either do not actually apply to gay marriage, or merely apply to marriage between same sex couples as much as it applies equally to marriage between heterosexual couples.

As a straight married man in a mixed race marriage, I am very keen on ensuring that people have no illusions about these above sorts of counter-arguments as being almost identical to ignorant and hateful agendas of the past that were directed against mixed race couples. Those arguments were invalid and unsound then against mixed race couples then and they are invalid and unsound against GLBT couples today.

As a democratic society we simply cannot allow the myopic religiously-based infatuation of an increasingly shrinking number of people dictate who does and does not qualify for equal treatment under the law. Reason, justice and a cosmopolitan morality must prevail.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families. Any delay would be, in effect, a denial of justice for thousands of our citizens.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Matthew LoPresti
91-1411 Keoneula Blvd.
Unit 2106
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From:	Robert Hogan
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:22:37 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robert Hogan
85-175 Farrington Hwy
A133
Waianae, HI 96792

From: Penina Afamasaga
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:27:42 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I am in a civil union with my partner because that was the only way we could officially "get married". We had no other way to bond ourselves together other than civil union, but I want to be able to share a lifetime of marriage with my partner. I want to have that same experience with my partner that other couples are entitled to.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Penina Afamasaga
91-1044 Kaiau Ave
14F
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: Paul Kraselsky
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:34:06 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Paul Kraselsky
3011 Pua Akala PL
Koloa, HI 96756

From: matt yee
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:41:44 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

matt yee
981970g kaahumanu street
pearl city, HI 96782

From: W.K. A.
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:58:02 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I'm related to gay and transgender cousins who have been in long-term, monogamous relationships with their beloveds. They've made families for themselves even though government doesn't recognize it. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

It saddens me that they can't enjoy marriage the way I have because I'm straight and they're not. Gays, lesbians, and transgenders should be allowed to marry the people they love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

W.K. A.
9
Waipahu, HI 96797

From: Kenante Rice
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:03:43 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kenante Rice
ahohui
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: Emily Ono
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:10:04 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Emily Ono
2341 Round Top Dr
Honolulu, HI 96822

Re: Testimony in support of SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha Chair Clayton Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support of SB 1** for marriage equality in Hawai'i.
Hawai'i has been on the forefront of Aloha and civil rights in the United States including the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, nondiscrimination clauses for employment and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and Civil Unions. Now is the time for Hawai'i to pass the marriage equality bill granting marriage rights to same gender couples. The U. S. Supreme Court struck down DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act) which allows married same sex couples in those states that have marriage equality to obtain the federal marriage benefits (over 1000) that are already granted to opposite sex married couples. Also, married same sex couples in military will also receive the federal benefits of marriage, which is significant in Hawai'i with its many military installations throughout the state.

I am a gay catholic man who has been with my life partner for over 22 years. We are Reciprocal Beneficiaries, receiving our certificate in 1998. We hope to finally gain the recognition of our love and commitment and be granted the rights and responsibilities of marriage already granted to opposite sex married couples. I am also a member of Dignity Honolulu, the local chapter of Dignity USA for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Catholics and their friends and supporters. Dignity USA has been consistent in its support for equal rights for LGBT people, through its membership in the coalition called, *Equally Blessed*, with the partners, New Ways Ministry, Call to Action, and Fortunate Families. These groups are progressive Catholic groups that support marriage equality because of their support for social justice issues which relate to our faith.

Recently, Bishop Larry Silva had sent out a letter opposing marriage equality with offensive and inaccurate statements regarding gay and lesbian families. Studies show that children raised by two parents, either opposite sex or same sex parents, have a better quality of life than those raised by just one parent, or have no parent at all. We should be supporting all families, which then supports the welfare of the overall community.

Again, I urge you to support SB 1 on marriage equality for the people of Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Gene Corpuz
1139 9th Ave., #1602
Honolulu, HI, 96816
GeneCMSPH@aol.com
808-779-1965

From: Natasha Lee
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:58:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Natasha Lee
2583 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

From:	Doran Porter
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:29:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Doran Porter
46462 Hulupala Place
46462 Hulupala Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Re: Testimony in support of SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha Chair Clayton Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support of SB 1** for marriage equality in Hawai'i.

I am a Roman Catholic and member of Dignity Honolulu, a ministry to GLBT Catholics. I am in total support of marriage equality because we need and deserve the right to marry our partners. My partner Mike and I have been together 12 years now. We look forward to the day we can officially get married.

Again, I urge you to support SB 1 on marriage equality for the people of Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Carlos Hernandez
540 Iolani Circle, #1
Honolulu, HI, 96813
808-227-7479

46-063 Emepela Pl. #U101 Kaneohe, HI 96744 · (808) 679-7454 · Kris Coffield · Co-founder/Legislative Director

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE BILL 1, RELATING TO EQUALITY

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hon. Clayton Hee, Chair
Hon. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 AM
State Capitol, Auditorium

Honorable Chair Hee and committee members:

I am Kris Coffield, representing the IMUAlliance, a nonpartisan political advocacy organization that currently boasts over 175 local members. On behalf of our members, we offer this testimony **in strong support of SB 1**, relating to equality.

Marriage equality is long overdue. Like Native Hawaiian self-determination or lobbying reform, the time for passing same-sex marriage in the islands isn't now. It was decades ago, when the consequences of discrimination—bullying against GLBT children, prejudice-inspired violence, and economic disenfranchisement, to name a few—gained public notice. One can plausibly argue that the time for equality has always been with us, since discrimination against any class of people is repugnant in any era. Period.

Today, we're in the reparative stage of the gay marriage struggle, in which the conversation hinges as much on redressing injustice as institutionalizing progressive social values. In the recently decided Supreme Court Case United *States v. Windsor*, for example, the plaintiff, Edith Windsor, argued that the Defense of Marriage Act unfairly forced her to pay $363,053 in estate taxes by preventing the federal government from extending the tax's spousal exemption to same-sex couples. Windsor won, but isn't the only person to face unnecessary hardship because of biased legal codes.

A host of rights continue to be denied to unmarried gay citizens, including those involved in separate-but-equal civil unions. According to the Government Accountability Office, marital rights are the bridge to 1,138 federal protections, including social security survivor benefits, expedited family-based immigration visas, spousal employment safeguards, and income tax exemptions. Even basic entitlements that support the financial well-being of families, like pension benefits and Medicaid provisions, are complicated by the lack of “marriage” being formally attached to a same-sex couple's relationship status.

In Hawaii, the number to remember is $217 million. That's the potential value of the tourism boost the islands could reap if policymakers sow same-sex marriage into law, says a study performed by University of Hawaii economist Sumner La Croix. Of that amount, La Croix surmises that $166 million would come from spending on marriage ceremonies and honeymoons, especially by visitors planning destination weddings. Approximately $10.2 million would be generated in general excise tax revenue between 2014 and 2016, enough to improve children's learning growth by providing air conditioning to several of the state's hottest schools.

Economics aren't the primary reason local lawmakers should legalize same-sex weddings. Rather, ensuring the dignity of every person, regardless of sexual orientation, should be the state's main goal. Yet, as non-controversial as that may seem for a state that prizes and advertises its diversity, some religious conservatives are concerned that gay marriage runs afoul of scripture. Catholic Bishop Larry Silva recently stated that “not all discrimination is unjust.” Similarly, in a Facebook post to followers on July 2, New Hope pastor Wayne Cordeiro called the Supreme Court's June marriage equality decisions “immoral rulings,” stating, “If we tolerate immorality in our churches, we will see it endorsed in our country.” Silva's and Cordeiro's message is clear: religion, especially Christianity, condemns same-sex couples.

Contrary to the convictions of conservative Christian leaders, though, marriage equality passes the Biblical test. Perhaps the most oft-cited passages decrying homosexuality come from Leviticus, which purportedly bans laying with a man as with a woman. But Levitican laws also prohibit planting two different crops in the same field, clothes made from different fibers, and touching pigskin. So much for playing football in your favorite player's jersey. Sometimes, heterosexual relations between Adam and Eve in Genesis's creation stories are exalted as morally normative. Genesis makes no mention of same-sex sexuality, however, and has become a textbook case of people reading personal ideologies into a text that aren't present in the text itself.

Even in the New Testament, homosexuality fares fairly well. Jesus, the man on whom Christianity is based, never discusses same-sex relationships, instead devoting extensive time to helping the poor, sick, and socially outcast. In epistles to the Romans and Timothy attributed to the apostle Paul, the author appears to denounce homosexuality as immoral. Unfortunately for equality opponents, the Greek word translated as “homosexuals” in these verses is *arsenokoites*, which many Biblical scholars, including National Book Award winning author John Boswell, believe to have been coined by the author (there is no record of its usage before the Pauline letters) to refer only to young male prostitutes who were sexually exploited during Roman temple rituals. While research about the term's meaning continues, one can hardly claim ambiguous, and possibly countervailing, ancient phrases as a sound basis for public policy.

With regard to the scope of the religious exemption contained in the bill, **we encourage you to refrain from weakening the state's public accommodations law.** Accordingly, we urge

you to amend this bill by allowing churches to refuse same-sex weddings at church facilities ***if and only if*** marital use of such facilities is restricted to church members and affiliated persons, and not used to operate for-profit marital businesses. We encourage you to change page 6, lines 4 through 18 (§572-F) to read: Religious organizations and facilities; liability exemption under certain circumstances. a) A religious organization shall not be required to make a religious facility owned or leased by the religious organization available for solemnization of a particular marriage; provided that: (1) The religious facility is regularly used by the religious organization for religious purposes; (2) For solemnization of marriages pursuant to this chapter, the religious organization restricts use of the religious facility to its members; and (3) The religious organization does not operate the religious facility as a for-profit business. (b) A religious organization that refuses to make a religious facility available for solemnization of a marriage under subsection (a) shall not be subject to any fine, penalty, injunction, administrative proceeding, or civil liability for the refusal. (c) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to exempt the owner or operator of any religious facility from the requirements of chapter 489 if the religious facility is a place of public accommodation as defined in section 489-2. We further urge you not to extend the exemption to facilities used "primarily" for profit, since this would allow discrimination at dual-use facilities and introduce vague terminology that could complicate application of the statute's protections.

By any measure, legalizing marriage equality furthers the interests of Hawaii's citizens, both gay and straight. Waiting, either for next year's legislative session or a vote on a constitutional amendment, merely delays the fulfillment of justice that's too long been denied. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify **in strong support of** this bill.

Sincerely,
Kris Coffield
Legislative Director

Kris Coffield **(808) 679-7454** **imuaalliance@gmail.com**

Strongly in favor of SB 1

I have to admit that in 1998, I didn't realize that some of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi and transgender) community really wanted to get married, to receive the benefits of their social security and taxes, or even become a family. I thought, as a group, they were self sufficient and able to hire lawyers to settle any legal questions that may arise. What was the big deal? I voted against equality for all.

Our son came out to us a few years later, and I began to learn what it means to be gay. In fact, I was surprised at how many gay people I already knew…doctors, lawyers, military personnel, city and state employees, teachers, and religious… the list goes on and on. Quite understandably, most of these people kept this part of their lives a secret. It brought tears to my eyes when young people and even people close to my age would describe being rejected by their own families after they shared their "secret".

I wish I could take back the vote I cast in 1998. Unfortunately, I have to live with that; but at least I can support efforts today to achieve marriage equality. Please pass SB 1 so that we can take this important step toward a world in which everyone can live together with love, honesty, and understanding. Mahalo.

HONOLULU PRIDE

Honolulu Pride

92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71, Kapolei, HI 96707 ▼ (808) 672-9050 - T ▼ (808) 672-6347 - F
honolulupride parade@gmail.com ▼ www.honolulupride.org

Dedicated to bringing together Honolulu's LGBTQIA community to honor and celebrate Pride.

October 23, 2013

Monday, October 28, 2013 – 3:00 p.m.
Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Capitol Auditorium
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1

Aloha Chairperson Hee and fellow committee members,

Honolulu Pride is Hawaii's oldest and largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and intersex (LGBTQI) pride organization in the State of Hawai'i. We are testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill 1.

Very rarely do you see a bill that comes through the legislature that will right a wrong, protect a vulnerable community, save lives and make the State of Hawaii money. These are some of the reasons that Honolulu Pride supports the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

The area we would like to focus the remainder of our testimony on is the fact that this bill has the chance to save lives. We have heard that a 'major' draw back of this bill is that it will tell people, especially kids, that it is "okay to be gay". We do not see it as a draw back at all; we view this as a major selling point.

Imagine if Tyler Clementi, Raymond Chase, Asher Brown, Seth Walsh, Billy Lucas and Cody Barker had heard that being it is okay to be gay, they just might be with us today. Who are those, you ask. They are all LGBT youth that committed suicide all in just one month because they were bullied. Keep in mind that these are just the ones that made the news, there hundreds if not thousands of suicides by LGBT youth and adults every year. They kill them selves because they are bullied for being who they were born to be! They are told they are less than their straight counterparts and not deserving of justice and equality.

They hear these messages from their bullies, by those that are fighting against equality and by their government when marriage equality is denied them. By making Marriage Equality a reality here in Hawaii you will be able to help save lives.

Our community has been waiting 20 years for this bill to become a reality and we hope that you will help make that happen. So for all these reasons we ask that you say YES to justice and YES to life and pass SB 1, un-amended.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Rob Hatch
Legislative Representative

From: Lisa Grandinetti
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:21:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

The majority of supporters I've met have a personal connection to this issue because they themselves are gay or they are close to a gay couple who have been waiting to get married for a long time. I, on the other hand, do not fall into either of those categories but I firmly believe strongly in empathy. I believe you don't have to be personally connected to an issue to feel passionately about it. The bottom line is that every couple of consenting adults deserves the right to get married legally. All arguments in opposition to marriage equality simply do not get at this bottom line because it is a human right and denying it because of any reason is still wrong. The longer we wait to pass marriage equality, the longer we violate this human right.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lisa Grandinetti
94-630 Kuaie St
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Melissa Egusa
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:04:02 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Melissa Egusa
4028 Omao Road
Koloa, HI 96756

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:13:06 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: To: Members of the Legislature and the general public From: Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Re: Special Session SB1, Marriage Equality Date: October 24, 2013 Aloha kakou, If you recognize my name, it's probably because of my activism in opposition to race-based political sovereignty for ethnic Hawaiians -- I oppose the Akaka bill, and the Kau Inoa, Kana'iolowalu racial registries which the Legislature has endorsed. But on this occasion I'm writing to support the concept of marriage equality. My position on both of these issues derives from my fundamental commitment to equality. I believe we are all equal in the eyes of God, and we should all be treated equally under the law by our government -- regardless of race, and regardless of gender or sexual preference. I also believe in the separation of church and state. So regarding Hawaiian sovereignty, I believe it's unconstitutional and immoral for our government to establish the ancient Hawaiian religion as having a privileged position in government decision-making regarding "sacred land" or "sacred taro" or what to do when bones are discovered during construction projects. In the same way, I believe we should separate the religious aspect of marriage from the civil aspect. A church should see only the religious aspect of marriage, as a sacred ceremony uniting souls in the eyes of God. Government should see only the civil aspect of marriage as a contractual partnership, enforced by government, whereby the partners acquire legal rights and responsibilities related to property, financial support, taxation, child custody, etc. A religious institution should have the right to solemnize a marriage, or refuse to solemnize a marriage, solely in accord with its theology or prejudices, untrammeled by any government laws or regulations. Indeed, if a Muslim imam chooses to marry a man to 4 wives, that should be a matter entirely between the man, the 4 women, the imam, and God; with no interference from the government. However, a marriage performed by a priest, minister, rabbi, or imam should have no legal consequences, and should never be authorized beforehand by the government nor certified afterward by the government. The famous final words spoken by priests in a marriage ceremony should never be spoken anymore: "Now by the authority vested in me by the State of Hawaii I hereby pronounce you ..." No priest should have any authority vested in him by the government, and whatever a priest does regarding marriage should have no consequences for the government. It

violates the separation of church and state when the state grants a particular religion or reverend the right to function as an agent of the government to sign a government certificate of marriage conferring government benefits such as tax exemptions or rights to financial support. People wishing to create a contractual relationship with rights and responsibilities enforced by government must get a license issued by the government. The government should create a booklet comparable to the "Rules of the Road", written under authorization of the Attorney General, specifying what are the rights and responsibilities; and prospective partners should be required to pass a test to demonstrate their knowledge of those rights and responsibilities before they can get a license from the government. When doctors, dentists, lawyers or business executives decide to form a partnership, the government does not inquire into their genders or whether they are having sexual relations or what kind of sexual relations they engage in. The same should be true regarding governmental certification of marriage as a civil partnership. "Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, and unto God that which is God's." Let neither church nor government interfere with the kuleana of the other. Let a church allow or prohibit same-gender marriage according to its own theology and prejudices, regardless of governmental laws; but marriages performed by churches should not be recognized or certified by government and should have no legal consequences. Let government certify marriages having legal consequences in the same way it certifies business partnerships, regardless of the genders or sexual practices of the partners. If a church operates its facilities as a business, performing marriages for fee-paying non-members, then the church should be subject to the same regulations regarding non-discrimination in public accommodations as any other business, and should be required to pay taxes on its business income and its real property. People wanting to get married should be able to choose either a sacramental marriage in a church, or a civil marriage licensed by the government; or they may choose to have both. Most people will probably want both. But they cannot get both through the same ceremony or at the same time or place. Thank you for your attention to my thoughts.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Michael (Mike) Golojuch, Sr., Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
92-954 Makakilo Drive #71
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707-1340

October 21, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L.Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

RE: Testimony in Support of Marriage Equality, SB1

I am Mike Golojuch and **I** am on the Board of Directors for Parents, Family, Friends of Lesbian and Gays — Oahu and a past Secretary for Dignity Honolulu, supporting gay and lesbian Catholics. I am testifying in support of Same-Gender (Same-Sex) marriage, which is a positive step to bring equal rights to our gay and lesbian tax paying citizens.

We must all remember that marriage is to provide a level playing field for another minority in our society and allow same-gender couples to receive their federal benefits. This is about fairness, equality and economic justice. Marriage will help in the equal protection of the law for our gay and lesbian brothers, sisters, aunties, uncles, fathers, mothers, friends or neighbors.

I served 23 years in the United States Air Force and have been married for 48 years. I believe it is a crime against equal protection under the law by not allowing our gay and lesbian couples to have the same rights, benefits, and obligations that my wife and I have.

This is also in keeping with the Unites States Supreme Court's recent decision in United States v. Windsor, 133 S. Ct. 2675 (2013), that extends to same-sex couples the right to marry and receive all the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage as opposite-sex couples receive under the laws of Hawaii.

Marriage will also become a positive economic engine for the State as both local couples and visitors plan their marriage ceremonies and parties in the islands.

I urge the Committee to quickly pass the Marriage Equality Bill so the full Senate and House can vote on this issue.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on this long-time coming equality issue.

Sincerely,

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Vice-President, PFLAG-Oahu

From: Miguel Galvez Bravo
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:52:29 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I am a Roman Catholic and I am 100% in support for equality

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Miguel Galvez Bravo
1522 Bertram st
Honolulu, HI 96816

NASW
National Association of Social Workers Hawai'i Chapter

October 23, 2013

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair - Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair and members of the Judiciary and Labor

From: National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter

Re: Special Session SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights

Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 Time: 10:30 a.m. Location: State Capitol Auditorium

Senator Hee, Chair, Senator Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor, My name is Marty Oliphant and I am the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Hawaii Chapter. NASW is in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB 1** which will extend the same rights and responsibilities of same-sex partners in marriages.

The social work profession has consistently fought for social justice, equality, and constitutional protections for Hawaii's most vulnerable individuals and groups. Along with other social justice and civil rights advocates, social workers have played an indispensable role in preserving freedom and ensuring opportunity for all. Social workers believe that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons deserve the same protections and opportunities in their work, family, career and health equal to other members of society.

NASW encourages the adoption of laws that recognize inheritance, insurance, same-sex marriage, child custody, property, and other rights in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender relationships. The Association firmly believes that all federal protections and responsibilities available to legally married people in the United States should be available to people who enter same sex unions (including domestic partnerships, civil unions, and same sex marriages).

Furthermore, NASW promotes equal protection under the law, and strongly supports the full implementation of existing civil rights legislation and its application to women; to people of color; and to gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people. And, because we believe that everyone is entitled to equal opportunity — regardless of age, disability, gender, language, race, religion, or sexual orientation — NASW endorses local, state, and federal policies and programs that give all people equal access to the resources, services, and opportunities that they require.

Approximately nine million adults in the United States—or three percent of the population—identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals. Discrimination and prejudice directed against any person on the basis of sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, whether real or perceived, are damaging to the social, emotional, psychological, physical, and economic well-being of the affected individuals. NASW believes that same-gender couples should be afforded the same respect and rights as other-gender couples. Discrimination and prejudice directed against any group is damaging to the well-being of society as a whole.

NASW strongly supports SB 1. Please pass this bill.

Thank you.

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702, Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 521-1787 • FAX: (808) 628-6990 • info@naswhi.org • www.naswhi.org

From: Carolyn Golojuch
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Fwd: Testimony SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:48:27 AM

October 24, 2013

Monday, October 28, 2013 –10:30 a.m.

Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor

State Capitol Auditorium

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1

Aloha Chairperson Hee and fellow committee members,

I strongly support SB 1 because:

1. - It's a US Constitutional Right as stated in the June 27, 2013 US Supreme Court Decision;
2. Social Justice calls for respect and dignity of all human beings;
3. Our Hawai`i State Constitution calls for equitable treatment of all citizens;
4. Hawai`i Civil Unions do not qualify under US law for 1,000+ rights of marriage;
5. Hawai`i needs SB1 to continue it's reputation as the land of Aloha;
6. Ancient Hawai'i respected all sexual identities prior to influx of Christian missionaries;
7. 14 other states, DC, some Native American tribes and 15 other countries have legalizes Full Marriage Rights;
8. Lt. Frank Golojuch, fought in WWII for Liberty and Justice for all Americans and his own Grandson doesn't have Liberty and Justice;
9. My husband and I are 48 years married and want the same rights for our gay son and the rest of the LGBT community;

10. US Military LGBT couples are recognized as legal couples and need Hawaii to legalize marriage for them to receive Federal benefits;

11. Our LGBT couples and families are in valuable and loving relationships and need the legalization to qualify for Federal rights, responsibilities and benefits;

12. Those churches that value their LGBT members want to perform wedding celebrations to respect them and it's discrimination to refuse this right;

13. I love my gay son and have worked for 18 years for his and all my other LGBT friends liberty and justice;

14. It's the right time for Justice.

Thank you for your consideration of this timely and important legal action.

Sincerely,

Reverend Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW

Universal Life Minster, Wife of 48 years, Mother of a daughter and a gay son

Gomama808@gmail.com

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Carolyn Golojuch, MSW
92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71
Kapolei, HI 96707
(808) 779-9078
gomama808@gmail.com
"If more people believed in justice, freedom and justice would be reality." cmg

--
Carolyn Golojuch, MSW
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(808) 779-9078
gomama808@gmail.com
"If more people believed in justice, freedom and justice would be reality." cmg

From:	Terry Travis
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 12:47:06 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.
Others have presented testimony on how important it is for loving couples to be allowed to marry persons they choose. What I would like to do is to debunk some of the irrational statements being made by the opponents of this bill.

1. Marriage Equality will NOT destroy America's family structure: Massachusetts legalized same sex Marriage in 2004 and since then Massachusetts has had the lowest divorce rate of any state in the US. In fact, according to a study by the CDC (US Center for Disease Control) done in 2007, the 5 states that had legalized same sex marriage at that time - Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont - all have an average divorce rate that is nearly 20% lower than the average of the rest of the country.
2. This bill does NOT redefine Marriage: These same opponents of this bill said in opposition to the Civil Unions Bill “Civil Unions are Same Sex Marriages by another name”. So what this bill really does then is just change the name of Civil Unions to Civil Marriages, so why are these opponents claiming that his is “land-breaking legislation”? By their own statements, this bill just recognizes that Hawaii already has Same Sex Marriage but has just called it by a different name and now is just using this bill to rename Civil Unions to the name recognized by the Federal Government so that these couples will get equal Federal benefits.
3. The People HAVE decided: When the legislature first considered Civil Unions, the opponents vowed to vote out those legislators who supported it. But ever since then, voters have consistently elected or re-elected legislators who support Civil Unions so that support in the legislature has increased. Other examples: Linda Lingle vetoed Civil Unions and was thus soundly defeated in the next election when she ran for Senate. Duke Aiona, who said he would have vetoed Civil Unions, was also soundly defeated by Neil Abercombie who supported Civil Unions. And the most obvious example is Mufi Hanemen (who called Civil Unions “same sex marriage by a different name”) was surprisingly defeated by Tulsi Gabbard who supported Civil Unions. So, the people HAVE spoken. The only thing that a delay and a vote by the people would do is allow the Catholic Church to waste more money running homophobic TV ads when they should be using their resources for Charitable work.
4. Freedom of Religion is NOT the issue: This bill contains many provisions to protect Freedom of Religion in cases where this freedom in within the confines of the exercise of a particular religion. The real issue is whether a religious minority is allowed to impose their homophobic agenda on the majority.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.
Terry Travis, 91-999 La'aulu St., Ewa Beach, HI, 96706

Terry Travis
91999 Laaulu
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: Shaun Campbell
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 3:30:09 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

It's a little-known fact that for 24 hours back in 1996, same-sex marriage was legal in Hawai'i. However brief that moment of justice and equality, it was one that sparked the modern movement for equal marriage around the globe that now is embraced by fully 17 countries, including more than a dozen states here in the U.S.

Indeed, Hawai'i has always supported diverse configurations of what comprises "family", from structures of kinship and households of Native Hawaiians to more recent options. Judge Kevin Chang perhaps summed up the familial landscape best in his landmark decision of 1996 in Baehr v. Miike:

"There is diversity in the structure and configuration of families. In Hawaii, and elsewhere, children are being raised by their natural parents, single parents, stepparents, grandparents, adopted parents, half parents, foster parents, gay and lesbian parents, and same-sex couples."

Notwithstanding our unique leadership role in the global equal marriage front, there are those here at home who pander fear and a false morality, insisting that respecting the civil rights of gay and lesbian minorities will deteriorate, rather than strengthen our society. This is factually untrue. In 2004, the American Anthropological Association, the world's largest organization of scientists who study culture, issued this "Statement on Marriage and the Family":

"The results of more than a century of anthropological research on households, kinship relationships, and families, across cultures and through time, provide no support whatsoever for the view that either civilization or viable social orders depend upon marriage as an exclusively heterosexual institution. Rather, anthropological research supports the conclusion that a vast array of family types, including families built upon same-sex partnerships, can contribute to stable and humane societies."

What we need now in Hawai'i to strengthen families of all types is equal marriage for all citizens. The time is ripe for fair treatment. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Shaun Campbell

Shaun Campbell
1911 Kalakaua Avenue, #305
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Renea Stewart
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:23:11 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Renea Stewart
215-6 Kawaihae Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

TESTIMONY OF

PATRICIA KOGE

USW Local 12-591 Unit Chair of the Hawaii Independent Energy

before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Monday, October 28, 2013

10:30 a.m.

State Capitol, Auditorium

concerning SB 1

"RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS"

Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

The United Steelworkers (USW) Union Local 12-591 strongly supports SB 1, the granting of equal rights to same-sex couples concerning marriage equality.

The USW have a long history of standing up for the working class people on issues that affect our members and proudly support this bill. Passage of this bill will enable same-sex couples to receive the same Federal benefits (over 1,000) afforded heterosexual couples.

The USW stand with supporters of marriage equality because it is the "right" thing to do and gives our LGBTIQ members equal access to benefits, preserves their dignity and recognizes their relationships.

Other states that have enacted similar bills on marriage equality have rectified this grave injustice to our LGBTIQ community. Our hope is that our LGBTIQ members working in Hawaii will no longer have to live in fear of the uncertainties that exist without the protections of full marriage equality.

It is our sincere hope that members of our legislative body will remain strong and resist pressures from those who oppose this bill. Failure to pass this bill will continue to deprive Hawaii residents and USW members of their dignity and right to be treated equally. Now is the time to stand up to discrimination and pass marriage equality.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify at your committee hearing.

From:	Kent West
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:13:47 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kent West
46034 Puulena Street
Unit 723
Kaneohe, HI 96744

My name is Kent West and I am 49 years old. My partner and I just celebrated our 22nd anniversary of being together. That is 22 years that we as a couple have been denied access to 1,000+ benefits and privileges, including protections under the law, that are currently exclusive to traditionally married couples.

My partner and I are American citizens, born and raised in the "good ole U.S. of A." We both have been working since the age of 15, and we continue working to this day as productive and contributing working class American citizens earning our hard earned paychecks, as well as paying our fair share of taxes. Of our combined 68 years of being in the workforce, the taxes we have paid have contributed to the coffers of both the State and Federal Governments, and yet we are denied equal access to 1,000+ benefits, privileges and protections of marriage that our tax dollars fund on both the State and Federal level.

As a direct and immediate result of the opposition to Marriage Equality, American born citizens are being denied the right to equality. The very rights defined by the forefathers of this great country: ....that all men/women are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

The rhetoric from the opposition to Marriage Equality is that this is an all-out effort to redefine the 'Institution ' of marriage. It should be unequivocally clear and understood that this is in no way an effort to redefine marriage. This is simply and exclusively about equality and equal access to 1,000+ marriage benefits, privileges and protections that are provided by both the State and Federal government.

The rhetoric from the opposition to Marriage Equality is to 'Let the People vote'. Historically American voters have proven themselves inconsistent in voting on Civil Rights Issues, especially ones that are as sensitive as this. Ultimately it has been the Government that has had to make the final decision. This is fact.

The rhetoric from the opposition to Marriage Equality is that they don't wish to have this 'forced into their lives', yet their current opposition to me and my partner marrying is forced into our lives every single day whether we like it or not.

Let me ask the opposition and the voters this. How does you marrying the person that you love, directly or indirectly impact the quality of my life? How does me marrying the person that I love, directly or indirectly impact the quality of life for you and your family? The answer is it doesn't. However, the oppositions current stance on me marrying the person that I love directly and indirectly impacts the quality of my life, my partner's life and our families lives, every single day.

Do you know how it feels to NOT have equal rights, as promised under the law, as American born citizens? My partner and I do. Do any of you know how it feels to fear not being able to be there for your loved one in the event they are incapacitated? My partner and I do. Do any of you know how it feels to fear losing everything you and your loved one has built together in the event of a death? My partner and I do. Do any of you know how it feels to feel like you don't count or matter or like you are a non-citizen? My partner and I do. Do any of you know how it feels to be excluded? My partner and I do. We experience all of this every minute of every day of our lives as a direct result of individuals like those who are opposed to Marriage Equality. To them I say,

put yourself in our shoes and spend just 1 day living in our fears and see how it makes you feel.

It is time that we stop living in fear. Hate is not a family value. Love is.

Being gay or straight is not something that someone just decides to be. Everybody is born just the way our Creator has made us. To NOT move Marriage Equality forward would send the message that it is okay to continue to perpetuate hate, intolerance, bigotry, judgment, exclusion, non-acceptance and to self loathe who you are not only as an individual but also the community and your fellow citizen.

Hawaii and the Aloha spirit have been part of me and my partner's lives for 22 years, ever since we first came to the islands in 1991. We traveled to and from Hawaii for 12 years, knowing that one day we would be kama'aina. We have been kama'aina and taxpayers for over 10 years now, lovingly embraced, accepted and hanai'ed by a multitude of amazing and beautiful people, except by those who oppose Marriage Equality.

It has always been a priority for both of us to foster, embody and practice Aloha daily in our lives.

What is Aloha?

A-Akahai, meaning kindness to be expressed with tenderness

L-Lôkahi, meaning unity, to be expressed with harmony

O-`Olu`olu, meaning agreeable, to be expressed with pleasantness

H-Ha`aha`a, meaning humility, to be expressed with modesty

A-Ahonui, meaning patience, to be expressed with perseverance

This is why we live in Hawaii. This is why we live in the Aloha state.

It is time for each one of us individually, as well as everyone here collectively, to remember what being in Hawaii and what being Aloha is about. Aloha is about community. Community is Common-Unity. Aloha is about ohana. Ohana is family. Aloha is about inclusion, not exclusion. Aloha is about diversity, not intolerance, nor bigotry, nor hatred. My charge to all of you here today is to embody and begin practicing from this moment forward, the meaning of Aloha. Our charge from our universal Creator is to love one another.

Moving Marriage Equality forward in Hawaii nei is the pono thing to do. Marriage Equality is not about redefining or renaming the institution of marriage. It is simply about equal access to 1,000+ benefits, privileges and protections that become available to couples when they take vows to be partners in life.

Now is the time for Hawaii to demonstrate to the world what Aloha really means by passing Marriage Equality for everyone.

Ho'o maika'i ke akua

From: Hanchulsu@aol.com
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Testimony for October 28 by Charles L. Hill, Palolo Valley, 1557 Mokuna Place
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:50:13 PM

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28,2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
RE: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor-

Respected lawmakers, observers, supporters of gay marriage and detractors against, those opposed to my equal rights and you who support equality for every citizen in the State of Hawaii through government of the people, by the people, and for the people, ***Aloha***. I greet you and ask only that you lay down your figurative swords and listen to my story.

The people have a voice. We citizens, every one of us, without exception, have a voice in you our elected legislators.

One April long ago when I was seventeen going on eighteen, I served as a counselor in a Billy Graham Crusade. With faith in God newly restored, I was in love with Jesus, read my Bible daily, met with other Christians regularly to pray, and I went to church to worship in community, enjoyed fellowship meals, and gave what I had to offer---everything I could think of-to this one singular desire to love God with all my heart and soul and mind and strength-and to love my neighbor as myself. A few months later near my eighteenth birthday just days after high school graduation and attending my elder brother's wedding, I set off on an adventure. With my mother and father's blessing, I found myself with a friend on a thousand mile drive to Dallas, Texas to participate in a gathering of more than 70,000 Christians from all around the world for a nine day long event called Explo'72. Nine days of learning and, for me, sharing my new found Christian faith. I sat under the voices of speakers like the Rev. Dr. Billy Graham, world-renowned evangelist, and on the final day of this enormous gathering,
I attended an all day music festival in downtown Dallas on a construction site of a new major inner city freeway. Johnny Cash and Kris Kristofferson were among the many performers who performed that day. Billy Graham spoke again and they say we were a million strong. What a celebration of life it was!

Yet not everything was that good. Earlier in the week about halfway through the nine-day gathering, two nights in a row I had a very strange and disturbing experience. I ran into the same man twice. Middle-aged, hair cut short, dressed in a suit and tie in contrast to my tie-dyed T-Shirt, shoulder length hair, love beads, faded blue jeans and sandals. And where I encountered him was inside the Cotton Bowl Stadium where nightly 70,000 registered delegates and other visitors gathered to hear speakers like Dr. Graham give messages of faith and teaching about being a disciple, a follower of Jesus Christ. You see-everyone was invited to come. ***Even this man***.

He caught me by surprise both nights. Each time I came face to face with him he was standing in one of the stadium entranceways to the seating areas. Both nights he was holding up a large Bible. Each time I met him it was unexpected, and it happened when I was on my way to and from the restroom. Each time I encountered him, he looked me right in the eye, spoke rapidly in tongues, or *glossolalia,* then, turning his face up as if listening, he immediately translated or interpreted in English what he had been speaking just before in an unknown language. And as he held up his Bible after looking me in the eye, he looked out at the vast crowd gathered inside the arena who were, like me, listening to a message of faith, hope and love. And then I heard the message he was giving to anybody who would listen. Both nights it was the same repeated with a vengeance.

He spoke loudly and sternly these words:

"MY GOD TOLD ME TO COME WITH THE SWORD AND WITH FIRE, AND I AM GOING TO KILL THEM ALL." (Unknown speaker in Dallas, June 1976)

And with a cold chill running up my spine I realized I was hearing the message of religion gone very wrong, of good gifts of the Holy Spirit twisted for an unhealthy purpose. Those two nights I encountered the message of exclusion and hate and fear.

It was such a contrast to the love I was hearing about inside the Cotton Bowl as people were invited to learn together and experience the unconditional love of God. For an almost eighteen year old, the encounter with bad religion and a Bible used to spew out hate on others who were diverse and different as the whole wide world, in the midst of so much good will toward people on earth, I was profoundly affected. I realized then that religious zeal and my faith alone were not enough. I would have to use my mind and my heart fully if I was to be faithful to my calling- if I was really going to treat others with respect and dignity. No exceptions. Without excuses.

I knew then as I walked back to my seat in the Cotton Bowl and I know now I want nothing to do with bad religion that is hateful and violent, and that excludes others from the table. And now today at this special session I find myself coming again to a place where many people of my faith have gathered along with those of many different religious backgrounds, and some of you who practice having no religion. Again, like when I was seventeen I find that I am facing individuals and groups gathered to tell a message. For some, it is the message of inclusion and equal rights for all in the sight of the law. For others, the message is of exclusion, a message with a history of persecution, abuse, and discrimination against me, and others like me here in Hawaii where so much of our history is about the struggle to end discrimination, do justice, show mercy, and provide an equal platform for living and loving and pursuing happiness protected by good laws. The contrasting messages are as different as freedom and slavery.

I know that not all gathered here are like me-a Christian, male, mostly Caucasian, part Cherokee tribe native American, an artist, a former missionary to Korea where I worked for twenty years, and now a member of the Episcopal Church and worldwide Anglican Communion, a citizen and permanent resident of Hawaii. I know, too, that some of you here have been in committed relationships much longer than the seventeen years my partner and I have lived together, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part---and every one of our commitments and promises matters and deserves recognition and protection by the laws of the land. And I am amazed and thankful that in my lifetime I see unfolding around the world, in many states in the USA, like in our home state here and now, I am learning of courageous acts of lawmaking and protecting the rights of the least and most oppressed minorities. Among us, it is happening. It is the result of people of good will coming together from many different national origins and religious backgrounds to support the ethical value and balanced, logical opinion we share that all human beings, every person from birth, you and I are all created equal with certain inalienable rights. Believing it to be true, how can we choose anything other than to recognize the love and commitment of two individuals under the laws of the land and protect that relationship through civil marriage sanctioned and protected by the state for every person who loves and pays taxes and resides in the State of Hawaii, and by extension, are citizens of the United States of America.

Clearly, this is my voice today and I am one of the people who vote so that you legislators can be in office today protecting every citizen's civil rights, and especially on the table today are the rights of the downtrodden who have been denied for too long rightful dignity and equal respect under the law.

It is simply beyond religion and must end as the last prejudice put down. It's common sense, and the way for people of integrity to go.

Early in my young adult civic and faith life, I experienced hurtful and bad religion and how religious people among us can be misguided by hate and fear and a lack of knowledge. They become part of a hateful mob doing exactly the opposite of what I understand as the most important and most basic at the root laws that I know for living life well and peacefully with others in society:

Love the Lord your God with all that you've got and do not ever cease to love your neighbor as yourself. These commandments are hard stuff to follow for the true believer in the goodness of love. I found that out one week ago when I came up unexpectedly upon someone who is persecuting me, someone who is openly my enemy, someone who opposes my partner and me having an equal right to marriage.

I am a citizen belonging to a gender orientation minority repressed and denied basic civil and human rights. Though

I love someone who is a member of this same minority, and we both pay our taxes, we are discriminated against every day in our state of residence so long as we are not allowed to choose to marry. I have come here to say, "It's not enough what we live under now." Unjust laws oppress and deny the harmless way we love, do not acknowledge the contributions we make together to make a better and healthier society, the lack of a bill passed to guarantee our right to marry denies the fact that the lives we live as families are as genuine and real as any other family. I have come here to say, "It is time to pass the law to give us-gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender citizens-the legal right to marry. To stop the discrimination, the bullying, the use of bad thinking based on twisted religion or bad politics for selfish gain based on bad thinking----the time for change has come.

We have waited long enough for you legislators to exercise our voices, which are your voices, the voices of the people speaking in an orderly and decent fashion based on elections and our votes.

Last week Monday afternoon I was driving home from Kapi'o'lani Park. I had just passed behind the zoo and turned right at the corner headed toward home when I saw two sign wavers holding up their signs with the message, *"Give the people a voice."* I got caught just then at the traffic light across the road from where one of the sign-wavers was standing waving his sign in protest against the reason why people like me are here today.
And so I did something unexpected. Since my car window was already down and I was caught at the traffic light, I had to speak my mind to my sign-waving neighbor across the way. This is what I said:

'Sir, No good change has come for any minority in history when the decision was left up to the people."

Just as I finished speaking these words to my surprise a young woman who at that moment was walking by the sign-waver chimed in with perfect timing, exclaiming,

"EXACTLY!!!"

And as the light changed to green, I added these words before starting off for home.

"Sir, my partner and I have been together for seventeen years. We pay taxes just like you do. You are wrong."

And I pray today that such wrong and hurtful thinking and bad religion inappropriately applied to this civil issue of basic equal rights will be replaced by clear headed thinking and fairness for all. I believe a new day will soon dawn for my partner Frank and me, and countless others, our children, and our parents.

And so, perhaps, we need to take advice of a performer I heard once years ago,
She said, "If you do not want gay marriage, don't marry one." For those of us-like Frank & me-who do want and need and deserve the right to marry-let it be.
Just let it be so. Let there be same gender marriage in Hawaii from this year. I ask you elected legislators to be the voice of the people for which you were elected to represent in office.

Open the prison gates and set the captives-those persecuted for no good reason---us,
the minority here in your midst. I make my testimony on behalf of my partner Frank Lee and me, Charles Hill, and our many neighbors because it is the good and right and just thing to do. Set us free to marry

You can do this.
We can live this.
Thank you.

Submitted *by Charles L. Hill*
1557 Mokuna Place
Honolulu, Hi 96817

Aloha. I greet you and ask only that you lay down your figurative swords and listen to my story.

The people have a voice. We have a voice in you our elected legislators.

One April long ago when I was seventeen going on eighteen, I served as a counselor in a Billy Graham Crusade. With faith in God newly restored, I was in love with Jesus, read my Bible daily, met with other Christians regularly to pray, and I went to church to worship in community, enjoyed fellowship meals, and gave what I had to offer---everything I could think of—to this one singular desire to love God with all my heart and soul and mind and strength—and to love my neighbor as myself. A few months later near my eighteenth birthday just days after high school graduation and attending my elder brother's wedding, I set off on an adventure. With my mother and father's blessing, I found myself with a friend on a thousand mile drive to Dallas, Texas to participate in a gathering of more than 70,000 Christians from all around the world for a nine day long event called Explo'72. Nine days of learning and, for me, sharing my new found Christian faith. I sat under the voices of speakers like the Rev. Dr. Billy Graham, world-renowned evangelist, and on the final day of this enormous gathering,
I attended an all day music festival in downtown Dallas on a construction site of a new major inner city freeway. Johnny Cash and Kris Kristofferson were among the many performers who performed that day. Billy Graham spoke again and they say we were a million strong. What a celebration of life it was!

Yet not everything was that good. Earlier in the week about halfway through the nine-day gathering, two nights in a row I had a very strange and disturbing experience. I ran into the same man twice. Middle-aged, hair cut short, dressed in a suit and tie in contrast to my tie-dyed T-Shirt, shoulder length hair, love beads, faded blue jeans and sandals. And where I encountered him was inside the Cotton Bowl Stadium where nightly 70,000 registered delegates and other visitors gathered to hear speakers like Dr. Graham give messages of faith and teaching about being a disciple, a follower of Jesus Christ. You see—everyone was invited to come. ***Even this man***.

He caught me by surprise both nights. Each time I came face to face with him he was standing in one of the stadium entranceways to the seating areas. Both nights he was holding up a large Bible. Each time I met him it was unexpected, and it happened when I was on my way to and from the restroom. Each time I encountered him, he looked me right in the eye, spoke rapidly in tongues, or *glossolalia,* then, turning his face up as if listening, he immediately translated or interpreted in English what he had been speaking just before in an unknown language. And as he held up his Bible after looking me in the eye, he looked out at the vast crowd gathered inside the arena who were, like me, listening to a message of faith, hope and love. And then I heard the message he was giving to anybody who would listen. Both nights it was the same repeated with a vengeance.

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I realized then that religious zeal and my faith alone were not enough. I would have to use my mind and my heart fully if I was to be faithful to my calling- if I was really going to treat others with respect and dignity. No exceptions. Without excuses.

And now today I find myself coming again to a place where many people of my faith have gathered along with those of many different religious backgrounds, and some of you who practice having no religion. Again, like when I was seventeen I find that I am facing individuals and groups gathered to tell a message. For some, it is the message of inclusion and equal rights for all in the sight of the law. For others, the message is of exclusion, a message with a history of persecution, abuse, and discrimination against me, and others like me. The contrasting messages are as different as freedom and slavery.

It is simply beyond religion and must end as the last prejudice put down. To do this is common sense and the expression of basic human decency, and the way for people of good intent and integrity to go.

I am a citizen belonging to a gender orientation minority repressed and denied basic civil and human rights. I love someone who is a member of this same minority, and we both pay our taxes, we are discriminated against relating to equal rights "It is time to pass the law to give us—gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender citizens—the legal right to marry. To stop the discrimination, the bullying, the use of bad thinking based on twisted religion or bad politics----the time for change has come. The time for SB1 to pass has come.

Last week Monday afternoon I was driving home from Kapi'o'lani Park. I had just passed behind the zoo and turned right at the corner headed toward home when I saw two sign wavers holding up their signs with the message, *"Give the people a voice."* I got caught just then at the traffic light across the road from where one of the sign-wavers was standing waving his sign in protest against the reason why people like me are here today. And so I did something unexpected. Since my car window was already down and I was caught at the traffic light, I had to speak my mind to my sign-waving neighbor across the way. This is what I said:

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"Sir, my partner and I have been together for seventeen years. We pay taxes just like you do. You are wrong."

I believe a new day is dawning for my partner Frank and me, and countless others, our children, and our parents. A few years ago I heard a famous comedian comment on all the anti-gay fuss about equal marriage rights. She said, "If you do not want gay marriage, don't marry one." For those of us—like Frank & me—who do want and need and deserve the right to marry—let it be. *Just let it be so.* Open the prison gates and set the captives—those persecuted for no good reason---us, the minority here in your midst. This is my testimony on behalf of my partner Frank Lee and me, Charles Hill, and our many neighbors Please pass the law that sets us free to marry.

You can do this.
We can live this.
Thank you.

Submitted *by Charles L. Hill*
1557 Mokuna Place
Honolulu, Hi 96817

HAWAII STATE COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:
ELENA CABATU
JUDY KERN
MARILYN B. LEE
CARMILLE LIM
AMY MONK
LISA ELLEN SMITH

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CATHERINE BETTS, JD

Email: DHS.HSCSW@hawaii.gov
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235 S. Beretania #407
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-586-5757
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October 25, 2013

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Cathy Betts, Executive Director, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights

On behalf of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I would like to thank the Committee for hearing this bill and for the opportunity to testify in support. The Commission strongly supports marriage equality for all in Hawaii. Just this year, the United States Supreme Court held that Section 3 of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) constituted unlawful discrimination and thereby violated the United States Constitution.[i] While Hawaii has always been ahead of this curve (*see* Baehr v. Lewin)[ii], our own civil unions are not recognized under federal law and same sex couples are not allowed to marry. In turn, our GLBT community members are not treated equally under the law.

The Commission believes that all people should be treated with equality and respect. Hostility and violence towards our GLBT community very closely mimics hostility and violence towards women. As women are punished for not acting "female enough", or "acting too male" and venturing out of the close confines of gender roles, our GLBT members are punished for not closely conforming to strict and unrealistic gender roles or for being gender non-conforming through a heterosexual lens. Additionally, this homophobia reminds boys to "toughen up", stop "acting like a girl" and otherwise eschew any stereotypically female traits. This provides a disservice to both men and women in all relationships. Further, it narrows our view of what constitutes "normal", limiting the broad spectrum of differences in the ways people express their individual sexuality and sexual orientation.

Marriage, as a social and cultural institution, is always evolving. What began in "traditional marriage" as a contract for chattel and a transfer of property ownership—where fathers of women to be married "transferred" ownership of their daughters to another man for a fee (e.g. money, property, land, animals, etc.) has completely evolved to suit a different reality. We can remember a time when something as common as inter-racial marriage was viewed as "abnormal", "unnatural" and against the will of God—social views that supported the notion that these marriages should be illegal.[iii] As no surprise, these restrictions on marriage were shot down as being inconsistent with our 14th Amendment, Equal Protection Clause.

Looking back on these landmark decisions building up to Windsor, our legislature has an opportunity to move towards a greater and more inclusive justice and equality for all of Hawaii's people.

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. poignantly stated, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." We urge this Committee to continue on this path towards justice and pass marriage equality. We also urge this Committee to oppose any exemptions that weaken our public accommodations protections, which were enacted to prohibit illegal discrimination.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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[i] United States v. Windsor, 133 S. Ct. 2675 (2013).
[ii] Baehr v. Lewin, 74 Haw. 530, 852 P.2d 44 (1993).
[iii] Loving v. Virginia, 388 U.S. 1 (1967).

Inga Park Okuna
Honolulu, HI 96822

Testimony in Support of SB1 (1 page)

As I listen to the radio on my drive to work, I have been hearing so many comments, ads, and conversations that aim at convincing Christians and non-Christians who have "strong personal beliefs" to contact their legislators about the same-sex marriage bill. I keep hearing similar themes of loss of religious freedom, and one Pastor Eldridge made some pretty strong statements about how children will be taught about alternate relationships in sex education and that parents can't do anything about it. He even went so far as say that if you were a clerk at a marriage licensing desk and had strong religious or personal beliefs that same-sex marriages were wrong, you wouldn't have a choice. You would have to treat everyone equally.

So I am writing to you tonight to state **my support for the same-sex marriage bill.** I have wanted to call the radio station on several occasions to interject a different perspective, but since I am driving, I don't. I will however testify that parents have choices, they don't have to sign the permission form for their child to receive sex education. I will also like to state that it really doesn't matter what your personal beliefs are when you are performing your job. There are still people in the US who don't believe in inter-racial marriages and I am glad that the law requires any clerk who feels that way, to still give out marriage licenses to inter-racial couples. It wasn't all that long ago that civil rights laws were argued against by people who obviously must have thought they were in the right. People of color didn't have rights and it amazes me to think how so many thought that was okay. Pastor Eldridge said living together outside of marriage was living in sin. It seems a bit ironic that he opposes allowing two people who love each other to get married.

It bothers me that people pick out Bible passages to "prove" homosexuality is wrong. It is sad that they don't consider that there is more than one interpretation of the Scripture. For example, if one refers to the Strong's Concordance (Strongs, 1996) on the specific words used for example in Genesis 19:1-5, the meaning of this passage and the story of Sodom and Gomorrah have been deliberately misinterpreted into English to be used to condemn homosexuality.

It is time for social justice. It is time to give a group of people equal rights, rights allowed others. Please stand strong in supporting what is right. Many of my friends and family feel the same. Those that oppose this bill are very vocal. They seem to miss the fact that a group of people have suffered discrimination and it is time to correct that.

My husband and I enjoy a life of privilege. We were able to foster and adopt children as a couple. We are able to inherit and receive other benefits solely bestowed upon married couples. We are able to publicly declare our relationship without fear of harm to ourselves or our loved ones. Those who so vehemently oppose this bill also enjoy a life of privilege and it is very sad that they seek to continue to deny others the same rights they take for granted. As a Christian, I believe that God loves all people. I have looked at other interpretations of the Bible that examine the original text and true interpretations.

From: Suzette Gavin
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:59:18 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Suzette Gavin
1371 Kukana Place
Kailua, HI 96734

Aloha members of the senate,

My name is Brayden AKT Ramos, otherwise known as Kaleo and I am in support of the Senate Bill No. 1, Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

As you meet to discuss the issue on same-sex marriage I strongly urge you to vote in support of the Senate Bill No. 1, Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, which will allow two loving same sexed persons in a relationship to marry.

My partner and I have been in a loving relationship for the past 5 years and look forward to spending a lifetime together with our son. We met a number of years ago through mutual friends and have been inseparable since. Our love story is has become a gem for us to continue the fight for Marriage Equality.

In 2008 Michael and I began our journey together. As I mentioned above we initially met through mutual friends. Since we've met I fell madly in love with him. It was everything about him, his kindness, his concern for others, his intelligence, his family; he is everything to me, next to my son. About two years after we met Michael and I had a strange discussion through text messages on our cell phones. As it turned out he felt the very same. Michael and I went through a lot together, from broken friendships that could not handle our relationship being within the circle of our friends, to those friends who stuck by us. Over the years, all of our friends are now in support of our loving relationship. As a couple we do many things. Michael is a HIV/AIDS prevention specialist in a non-profit agency and I am a special education teacher in the Department of Education, together as a couple Michael and I work within many programs that offer support/services to our GLBTQIA (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and ally) youth. Aside from work we volunteer much of our time in our community. Two things that we stand by as we teach our GLBTQIA youth, we teach them to feel empowered and to advocate for the their own civil rights as citizens of the United States.

As I pass by the sign holders along the avenues of Hawaii urging the senate to "let the people vote" my blood begins to boil. The people did vote. The people voted for those who are holding office in the senate. The people's voice was heard and now you, the people who are in office, will make a decision on the fate of all same-sexed couples in Hawaii. You will make a decision that will affect those of us who have been together and committed in loving relationships of many years to decades. Although diverse, we are still worthy of being able to seal our relationships with marriage and become families.

Ultimately, Michael and I both believe that two people in a loving and committed relationship should be awarded the opportunity to solidify this union under a federal law-binding document such as a marriage license. We both want to have the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities that come with marriage as they already do with heterosexual couples because it is our civil right.

Mahalo for your time,
Brayden AKT Ramos

October 24, 2013

Monday, October 28, 2013 –10:30 a.m.
Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol Auditorium
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1

Aloha Chairperson Hee and fellow committee members,

I strongly support SB 1 because:

1. It's a US Constitutional Right as stated in the June 27, 2013 US Supreme Court Decision;
2. Social Justice calls for respect and dignity of all human beings;
3. Our Hawai`i State Constitution calls for equitable treatment of all citizens;
4. Hawai`i Civil Unions do not qualify under US law for 1,000+ rights of marriage;
5. Hawai`i needs SB1 to continue it's reputation as the land of Aloha;
6. Ancient Hawai'i respected all sexual identities prior to influx of Christian missionaries;
7. 14 other states, DC, some Native American tribes and 15 other countries have legalizes Full Marriage Rights;
8. Lt. Frank Golojuch, fought in WWII for Liberty and Justice for all Americans and his own Grandson doesn't have Liberty and Justice;
9. My husband and I are 48 years married and want the same rights for our gay son and the rest of the LGBT community;
10. US Military LGBT couples are recognized as legal couples and need Hawaii to legalize marriage for them to receive Federal benefits;
11. Our LGBT couples and families are in valuable and loving relationships and need the legalization to qualify for Federal rights, responsibilities and benefits;
12. Those churches that value their LGBT members want to perform wedding

celebrations to respect them and it's discrimination to refuse this right;

13. I love my gay son and have worked for 18 years for his and all my other LGBT friends liberty and justice;
14. It's the right time for Justice.

Thank you for your consideration of this timely and important legal action.

Sincerely,

Reverend Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW
Universal Life Minster, Wife of 48 years, Mother of a daughter and a gay son
Gomama808@gmail.com

From: Chuck Huxel
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:23:16 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair
Shimabukoro, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am in a wonderful marriage. The loving relationship my wife and I enjoy is a precious source of happiness and security in our lives. We are committed to each other, and our commitment is recognized and celebrated by our friends and family. Our commitment is recognized and guarded by the civil law of the larger community surrounding and including us as well. And we are assured and secure in that law.

So, now, I have to ask the question: Why are my gay and lesbian brothers and sisters who are in loving relationships not granted the same security and protection, the same civil rights, that our community grants to me and my life partner. Opponents of SB1 say that if this legislation is passed and enacted into state law, and that equal civil rights are thereby granted to my friends, it would somehow threaten our marriage. This is entirely false! Such a law, such a clear assurance of justice for all persons in committed and loving relationships, will not weaken the bonds of our marriage. On the contrary, it will enhance our marital joy and strengthen our ties to our larger community. We will celebrate the reality that our community is truly just.

I, therefore, ask you today to pass SB1 out of committee. I am hopeful that the Senate will pass the bill and that it will become law. Such an outcome, thereby extending equal civil rights to all, will surely grace our community with justice. Please do the right thing.

Respectfully,

Chuck Huxel

Chuck Huxel
99-1362 Hele Mauna Pl.
Aiea, HI 96701

From: Amy Perruso
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:26:42 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Amy Perruso
95-1319 Wikao St.
Mililani, HI 96789

First Unitarian Church of Honolulu

A Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation
2500 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Tel: 808-595-4047 Fax: 808-595-4037

Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kwong
Minister

Dave Hafner
President, Board of Directors

October 25, 2013

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium

Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha e Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

For two decades, Hawaiʻi has been debating the issue of marriage equality. For over six decades, our movement (Unitarian Universalism), has settled this debate by performing the first recorded same-gender blessing in New York during the 1950s. We have been advocating for marriage equality in almost every state since because our faith compels us to, not in spite of it.

We are part of a five-century tradition advocating for religious freedom. While we recognize each denomination can marry whomever they want to, with your help, those of us who have already been marrying same-gender loving couples for decades will finally have the freedom to do so here in Hawaiʻi as well.

Over the years, we have witnessed a sea change in public opinion. Our very own President Barack Obama, who went to Sunday School at the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu, eventually realized Civil Unions were not enough after witnessing the lives and loves of his gay and lesbian friends. I'm convinced many here in Hawaiʻi have experienced a similar transformation because we know of someone who is LGBT in our ʻohana.

The time to act is now. Together, we can ensure LGBT families are protected from the lack of protection when a partner is sick in the hospital, tax benefits that would make a huge financial impact, and even the effects of bullying. Every time we treat someone as second-class citizens, we diminish the human spirit and harm the rest of society. With you kokua, we can build stronger families in a society where the spirit of aloha prevails.

I urge you on behalf of Unitarian Universalists throughout Hawaiʻi Nei to pass marriage equality expeditiously.

Aloha no,

REV. DR.

The Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kūpono Kwong
Minister

From: Jess Glasser
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:02:39 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jess Glasser
1600 Ala Moana Blvd Apt 2200
Honolulu, HI 96815

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Hearing on October 28, 2013, at 10:30 am; Auditorium, 415 South Beretania St.

Aloha, Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, and Committee members:

My name is Gary Okabayashi. I am also submitting this testimony on behalf of Lenny Zimmerman. We are both residents of and voters in the State of Hawaii and strongly support SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights.

I was born and grew up in Honolulu and attended public schools (I attended my 50th Kalani High School reunion in August of this year) and the University of Hawaii. Having worked both in Hawaii and New York, I am now retired. Lenny grew up and worked in New York City. We moved to Waikiki in 2007. In short, Lenny and I are typical residents of the State. We are family members and your neighbors.

Lenny is also my husband -- after 35 years as a couple, we flew to California at the beginning of this month and were married on Oct. 2. Since getting married before the end of this year was very important to us for federal tax purposes, we thought it best not to leave anything to chance. Additionally, with life's uncertainties, we did not want to delay even for a month having federal marriage benefits relevant to us (survivor and other benefits related to social security, taxes, medicare, etc.).

Marriage for same-sex couples is a matter of civil rights. A gay or lesbian person, like a straight person, should have the right to marry the person he or she loves.

Marriage for same-sex couples is also a matter of equality. We should have access to the same federal benefits that opposite-sex couples enjoy. For over 13 years, I have had to pay taxes on the health insurance and travel benefits that Lenny receives through my former employer. This has now ended with our marriage.

Finally, marriage for same-sex couples is a matter of fairness and aloha. No one should have to fly to another state to get married to get federal benefits. Indeed, some Hawaii residents cannot afford the expense of such a trip and would not be able to enjoy federal benefits unless we have marriage equality in Hawaii.

Lenny and I urge this Committee to act favorably with respect to SB 1.

Mahalo.

Sincerely,
Gary Okabayashi
1551 Ala Wai Blvd #2304
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Lisa Veneri
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:37:30 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lisa Veneri
215 Kawaihae St. #6
Honolulu, HI 96825

Anne K Fritz
91-555 Pupu Street
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Anne Fritz and I urge you to OPPOSE Special Session SB1: Relating to Marriage.

1. Deciding the outcome of this bill in a special session preempts the democratic process by not allowing for the people of our state to voice our support or opposition to the changes as we did in 1998 when we decided to preserve traditional marriage as "a unique social institution based on the committed union of one man and one woman."

2. I ask the lawmakers of our state to consider this issue better treated by the constitutional amendment process that would allow for due democratic process to take place because the outcome of this bill if passed will be irreversible and affect generations to follow.

3. It is my belief that the current bill will NOT protect church leaders, churches who define marriage as between one man and one woman and individual's rights due to the stipulations in the public accommodations law. What church is not open to the public or encourage interaction with the community around them for marriages or other activities? This would limit church membership and their ability to be a functional part of their communities.

I urge you to vote NO on SB 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Anne K Fritz, Hawaii Voter

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: RobinAllen270@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:20:50 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

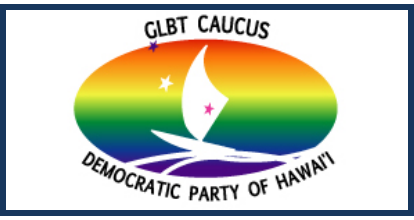
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Katherine Lindsey	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Hi, my name is Katherine Lindsey and I support marriage equality because I am a teenager who is depressed and has suicidal tendencies. Now I know this doesn't seem to have anything to do with gay marriage but it will. I was suicidal, I have attempted to kill myself more then once and have written countless suicide notes. One night I was talking to a friend and she talked me out of suicide and has taken to stealing my heart, but we both have homophobic parents. Now I know you're think ing why do I care. You don't. I'm only 15 I can't vote yet, and I can't even drive yet. I have homophobic parents that sent me off to boarding school and I hate that I feel more at home among strangers then I do with family. I'm asking you to open the door to getting rid of homophobia so that me and my parents and my 13 siblings can be a family again. Please help me put my family back together.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

GAY LESBIAN BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER CAUCUS



DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I

October 26, 2013

Monday, October 28, 2013 – 3:00 p.m.
Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
Capitol Auditorium
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1 – Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha Chairperson Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and fellow committee members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 1, the Marriage Equality Act of 2013, on behalf of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii's (GLBT Caucus) over 1,000 members and supporters.

When the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) ruled in Windsor v. US that Section 3, of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, was unconstitutional it made Federal Benefits available to all legally wedded gay and lesbian couples. In the subsequent rules and memos released from the IRS, the US Department of Labor and other federal agencies it was made clear that most if not all rights, benefits and responsibilities bestowed by the Federal Government to married couples would not be available to any couple, same-sex or opposite sex, if they were in a Civil Union, Domestic Partnership or Reciprocal Beneficiary. These are just a handful of reasons why the Caucus strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 1 and why it is so important.

For example without access to Federal Benefits, LGBT couples cannot file joint Federal Taxes returns. They are also denied Social Security death and survivor benefits, and immigration rights, along with well over 1,100 benefits, rights and responsibilities.

Hawaii's LGBT couples are in a very unique position given that all you have to do is be married in one of the now 14 states that has Marriage Equality to get access to those Federal Benefits. Which means that justice and equality for LGBT couples is ONLY available to those couples that can afford to travel as well as take time off of work to one of those 14 states to get married. Justice and equality should not only be available to those that can afford to travel.

As for the notion that you should pass another Constitutional Amendment to "let the people decide" the issue of Marriage Equality. It is our belief that this would ultimately

not pass constitutional muster. For this would be putting the rights of the LGBT community, a minority, in the hands of the majority and this is something that the courts have ruled against, time and time again. The 1998 constitutional amendment was very clear, as was the decision of those voters, that the decision regarding Marriage Equality should be left in your hands and not left to the whim of the electorate.

The GLBT Caucus opposes any all changes to the existing Pubic Accommodation laws. All religious entities already have the best exemption and that is called the First Amendment of the US Constitution. This amendment ensures that no ordained minister will ever have to perform any ceremony that goes against his or her religious beliefs. It also ensures that no religion will have to rent out their places of worship. But when any religious group decides to use their places of worship as moneymaking entities by offering them for rent to the public, that being any non-member of their religion, then they have voluntarily entered into a public trust. That trust is encapsulated in Hawaii's Public Accommodations law, which states that no one can discriminate against anyone based on the State and Federally protected classes. This also goes for any membership driven society, like the Boy Scouts.

The GLBT Caucus agrees with the adage that 'Loves makes a family', but we know that Marriage Equality is desperately need to protect our families, ALL our families. We say all families because everyone has a member of their family that is a member of the LGBT community. While it is true not all families accept and welcome their LGBT family members, we are there nonetheless, and we deserve justice and equality just like everyone else.

So for all these reasons we ask that you support and pass Senate Bill 1 and make Marriage Equality a reality in the Aloha State, it is the right thing to do.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
GLBT Caucus Chair and
Male Rep. to the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

Lee M. Yarbrough
Attorney At Law & Certified Public Accountant

LMY

Monday, October 28, 2013 Time: 10:30am

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Auditorium of the State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Senate Bill 1 - Relating to Equal Rights – Testimony in Support

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

My name is Lee M. Yarbrough. I am an attorney and CPA practicing primarily in the areas of Estate Planning and Taxes. I have been an active participant in the process leading up to the passage of Act 1 Relating to Civil Unions in 2011, and have offered frequent testimony and advice on bills affecting Reciprocal Beneficiaries and Civil Unions over many years, up to and including the 2012 General Session. I am very active in the legal and accounting professional communities in Hawaii, and have been on many advisory panels to discuss the implementation of the 2011 Civil Unions law, and the Civil Unions follow up/clarification bill passed in 2012. In the last two years I have also provided assistance and advice to legislative committees, executive branch agencies, and the Attorney General's office, as well as to community groups and marriage equality advocates, regarding the Civil Unions legislation passed in 2011 and 2012. Most recently I have also provided assistance and advice addressing proposed marriage equality legislation, both in the 2013 General Session and this present Special Session.

As general background information, I reviewed and analyzed both the 8/28/13 and 9/9/13 draft bills addressing Marriage Equality, as proposed by the Abercrombie Administration. I have also made a review and analysis of SB1, which is presently before this committee.

I strongly support the passage of SB1 in its present form. The changes made to the Governor's proposed 9/9/13 bill draft in this SB1 should completely address the religious exemption concerns raised by members of the religious community, the community at large, and many legislators. It does this by:

a. Adding in language to the purpose section to state explicitly that it is the intent of the legislature to protect religious freedom;

b. Amending the language in proposed Section 572-E, relating to the refusal to solemnize, to include rabbis, clergy, etc., to make it more inclusive;

c. Amending the language in the refusal to solemnize provisions to make it clear that the right to refuse belongs to the individual, whether or not they have facilities; and, most importantly, by

d. Deleting the 3 prong test proposed in the 8/28 and 9/9 bill drafts and replacing it with a clear law which provides that only religious organizations that (1) allow the general public to use its facilities for weddings; and (2) make a profit on those weddings, need to comply with the Public Accommodations Law, i.e., host same-sex weddings. All others will be exempt.

In my opinion, the protections in the current draft of SB 1 are completely adequate to protect the balance between the religious freedoms granted under the First Amendment, without undermining the intent of the Public

Post Office Box 4157
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812-4157
Phone: (808) 735-9103 Fax: (808) 735-1436
E-mail: LEEYARBRO@aol.com

Accommodations laws which prohibit outright discrimination based on any presently protected attribute, including sexual orientation. While SB1 may not address the concerns of those opposed to equal marriage rights for gays and lesbians under any circumstances, including those individuals who want to be able to discriminate in the public accommodations arena based on their individual beliefs, it does protect clergy and religious organizations completely.

It is often said that nothing in life is certain, "except Death and Taxes". As a CPA and Estate planning attorney, these issues (Death and Taxes) are the primary focus of my private law practice. As a result, I get many inquiries regarding the rights and benefits afforded under our present Civil Unions law, and I am constantly asked about the Federal rights to be afforded if SB1 is enacted and Marriage Equality becomes a reality in Hawaii. Let me reiterate that equal rights are the primary focus of those in the LGBT community who have sought equality in the past in the form of Civil Unions, and who seek marriage equality now. As a result of the June 2013 US Supreme Court decision invalidating Section Three of the Defense of Marriage Act, Hawaii's Civil Unions are defective, in that they are, by legal definition, not a marriage. Thus, Hawaii's LGBT citizens in Civil Unions do not now, and cannot and will not in the future, receive the same Federal rights and benefits (numbering 1200+, and including Income Taxes, Estate Taxes, and Spousal Social Security and Medicare benefits, to name just a few) that LGBT citizens of the 14 other states and the District of Columbia (who now have Marriage Equality) presently enjoy. Hawaii's LGBT citizens should not be denied equal rights any longer, and present public opinion in Hawaii now supports the simple concept of granting LGBT citizens equal marriage rights.

Passage of SB1 in this Special Session will eliminate many bureaucratic and administrative problems for both governmental agencies and private businesses. The present problems that result from having to sort out the myriad of Federal and State rights and benefits, and their tax attributes, and their applicability to and appropriateness for Civil Unions partners in Hawaii, versus the routine and equal applicability for any marital rights, for any married couple in Hawaii, whether same sex or opposite sex, once this legislation is passed, will mostly be a thing of the past.

Passage of SB1 will also presumably render moot any currently pending cases in the US Federal Courts (and most likely future cases), if those cases are based on a denial of equal rights and protections to Hawaii's LGBT citizens under the present Civil Unions law -- without Marriage Equality. As you well know, the Hawaii constitutional amendment in 1998 reserved the power to adopt the definition of marriage to you, our elected legislators. That power was NOT reserved to the general public by ballot initiative or referendum. In my opinion, no minority groups' rights should ever be voted on by a majority. Our US Constitution, the US Bill of Rights, and the Hawaii Constitution are crafted to protect individual liberties, and in particular, to protect minority rights against the tyranny of a majority.

I urge you to exercise your constitutional power, as our elected representatives, to uphold equal rights for all -- by voting to pass SB1. Public sentiment has changed much since 1998 and the time is now for Marriage Equality and Equal Rights for all in Hawaii. This SB 1 balances the rights of a minority, Hawaii's LGBT citizens, with the religious rights of all Hawaii's population (and not just certain religions), and all-the-while insures that the nondiscrimination provisions of the Public Accommodations laws of Hawaii which applies to all churches, businesses, organizations, and individuals are upheld.

Please recognize that SB1 has been carefully crafted with much time, thought, and public input, and SB1 does protect Religious Freedom for all, including the non-religious, those religious groups that affirm and support same sex marriage, and those religious groups that reject both homosexuality and same sex marriage outright.

The sooner that this law passes, the sooner that Hawaii's LGBT Citizens will be granted equal marital rights, benefits and protection under both Federal and Hawaii laws! Justice delayed is justice denied.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 1.

Lee M. Yarbrough
Attorney at Law/CPA

Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 AM
State Capitol Auditorium

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB1 – RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS.

The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i has long supported the Cause of Equality for our brothers and sisters in the LGBT Community, first in pursuit of Civil Unions, and now in the fight for Marriage Equality. At our 2012 State Convention the collective delegation, which included representatives from every district on every island, voted to reaffirm that support by passing Resolution NAT 2012-02: Support for Marriage Equality, whose action items read as follows:

Be it resolved, That the Democratic Party of Hawai'i finds the current state statute defining marriage as solely the union between one man and one woman to be unfair and inconsistent with our fundamental belief that all citizens are entitled to be treated equally under the law; and be it further

Resolved, That the Democratic Party Hawai‘i calls upon our Hawai'i legislators to pass legislation to ensure that all families are treated equally under the law as required by the Constitution of the State of Hawai‘i; including but not limited to, equal access to marriage licenses

We are here today to do just that, to call upon our legislators to bring Hawai‘i statute into proper alignment with the Constitution of the State of Hawai’i. Passage of this bill is the necessary step forward to do so.

Ultimately, we must view this struggle as what it is: the defining Civil Rights Issue of our time. Let us show that we are ready to embrace this as change for the better.

Thank you again for calling this Special Session and allowing us to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of SB1 – RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS.

Mahalo a nui loa,

Dante K. Carpenter
Chair, Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI‘I
404 Ward Ave., Suite 200 ● Honolulu, HI 96814 ● (808) 596-2980 ● www.hawaiidemocrats.org

Aloha mai kākou! My name is Mika Mulkey and I'm just one of many, from the Big Island, who support Marriage Equality, here in the State of Hawai'i.

Hawai'i is best known for its values: Aloha, 'Ohana, Lōkahi, Kuleana, & Pono:

- Aloha, a spirit of unconditional love. The feeling of aloha has left everlasting impressions on our kama'aina and malihini for centuries and is what attracts everyone to our islands. By opposing this bill, our state will convey a wrongful message to the world, that Hawai'i does NOT support Aloha for ALL, but just for heterosexual couples.
- 'Ohana, an important value in our quest to achieve Aloha. Ohana isn't restricted to those of blood relation, but to whom we choose to call our family. Nowhere in our history did our kupuna state, that an 'ohana requires a man and a woman to nurture our keiki because they knew, what was needed is love, discipline, compassion and respect.
- Lōkahi, the value of teamwork. By working together, we can achieve more. This can relate to this very issue today because after 20 years, Hawai'i has NOT been able to demonstrate the ability to achieve unity. Supporting this bill ensures that ALL people of Hawai'i, will be protected from discrimination.
- Kuleana, sense of responsibility. It is OUR kuleana to ensure that everyone in our state is granted the same equal rights and that we instill, in our future generation: tolerance and acceptance of everyone, regardless of whom they choose to love. It is my kuleana to remind you of this.
- Pono, the value of integrity and balance. Hawai'i will NOT be able to progress into the future until ALL things are right for ALL its people.

So I ask you today, to vote in support of Marriage Equality, because not only do ALL people in Hawai'i, deserve the freedom to marry whom they love, but because it is their kuleana to pass on OUR values of love, family, unity, compassion, and belongingness to the next generation. These values are NOT limited to just heterosexual couples; in fact they apply to ALL people of Hawai'i.

President Barack Obama once stated, "Nothing can stand in the way of the power of millions of voices calling for change." Today, the people of Hawai'i are calling for change and will NOT stop until the true meaning of Aloha (Always Loving Others Here & Always) is observed and practiced by EVERYONE the sun touches on OUR 'aina.

Mahalo

From: Lenore Ku?umeaaloha Gomes
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:30:56 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Here in Hawai‘i, we believe in the spirit of aloha and treating others equally. Facing the Capitol Rotunda is the statue of Hawai‘i‘s former Queen Lili‘uokalani, herself, a symbol of peace and justice for the people of Hawai‘i.

Yes, we have a proud history of fairness and equal rights, for racial equality, and we celebrate racial diversity throughout our Hawaii nei; for gender equality for our women in Hawaii and abroad, and now we have this great opportunity for marriage equality, the right of gay and lesbian couples to marry.

In Hawai‘i, we understand that we are all ‘ohana, and we never turn our backs on family members, gay or straight.

As a kupuna in my ‘ohana, I say respectfully to you our lawmakers, “Now is the time to once again make a difference in our Hawai‘i, now is the time for marriage equality!”

Mahalo nui ia‘oukou for this opportunity to share my mana‘o with you in this testimony, and please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality.

Lenore Ku?umeaaloha Gomes
1240 Alani St.
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Gail Gnazzo
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:45:21 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

I have friends who have been committed same sex couples for many years, one for forty.Several years ago one became ill w/ malignant myeloma, an incurable cancer. His partner cared for him through many rounds of chemotherapy and remissions. He died three weeks ago. In the end after a devoted forty year relationship he died without them ever being able to call each other husband or having our state granting them that right.
Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gail Gnazzo
19 Ohia Llehua Place
Makawao, HI 96768

From: Keola Akana
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Special Legislative Session SB 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:33:52 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
From: Keola Akana
Date: October 28, 2013, 10:30 am
Re: SB 1 - Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha Chair Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair Maile Shimabukuro and Judiciary and Labor Committee members:

My testimony is in support of marriage equality for gay and lesbian families. I urge passage of the marriage equality legislation to provide equality for Hawai`i's gay and lesbian families to enable them to access the federal rights that the US Supreme Court granted in June 2013. Hawai`i has a long tradition of supporting civil rights for its citizens. Hawai`i has debated marriage equality for over 20 years and it is time to provide just and fair opportunities for Hawai`i's gay and lesbian families to access all the rights and responsibilities that our country offers. Enacting civil unions a couple years ago provided most if not all the Hawai`i State rights. Now it is important to grant full equal marriage rights that the Federal Government offers married couples. There is no good reason to deny equal marriage rights for gay and lesbian families. Even through there are some religions that are in opposition to equality for gay and lesbian families, there are many other religions that support equal marriage rights for gay and lesbian families. I am an Episcopalian and our Hawai`i Diocese and the national Episcopal Church have endorsed equal marriage rights for gay and lesbian families. Our Hawai`i Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick said at our Diocesan Convention on 10/25/13 said that the Episcopal Church of Hawai`i will NOT discriminate against gay and lesbian Episcopalians who choose to be married in our parishes. There are many other Christian religions and non-Christian religions that support equal marriage rights for gay and lesbian families. Government should not deny one churches right to legally marry its members over other churches who chose not to marry their gay and lesbian members. Favoring one religion over another is not part of our democracy.

Some legislators have suggested that there should be an exemption for churches to enable them an to be exempted from Hawai`i's public accommodation law, even though the church holds themselves out as a business providing venues or services to the general public, thus allowing them to discriminate against sexual orientation. This would be an error. It has been stated that other states have a broad religious exemption and Hawai`i can follow these state. Just because other states have made this mistake does not mean that Hawai`i ought to make the same mistake. If an entity holds itself out for a commercial purpose then it ought to be subject to the same laws that other commercial businesses are subject to. If a church

limits its facilities to its church members, and does not offer its facilities or services out to the general public, then it can discriminate and are not subject to the public accommodation law. It is important to keep Hawai`i's current public accommodation law in tact.

Please pass marriage equality legislation and support gay and lesbian families, which will stabilize and strengthen Hawai`i's society. Hawai`i will then join the 14 other USA states and the District of Columbia, as well as 17 countries around the world who have enacted equal marriage laws supporting gay and lesbian families.

Mahalo and aloha for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Keola Akana

From: Michele Golojuch
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:08:08 AM

October 26, 2013

Monday, October 28, 2013 – 3:00 p.m.

Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hawaii State Capitol

Capitol Auditorium

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1 – Relating to Equal Rights

I have been testifying for equal marriage rights since the 90's. My good friend testified and supported me when I would hear people call my baby bother horrible things. He was my rock but he has passed away leaving his partner with out the rights and privileges. He had to pay a lot of taxes and if he had been able to marry the love of his life this would not be so. The highest court in the land has ruled and marriage is one of those inalienable rights that should be afforded to everyone.

Gender should not be a factor. Those who have religious objections just should not marry someone of the same gender. There is separation of state and church. There are laws already for public accommodation. If a religious group wants to exclude anyone then they should have their doors open only to their members so they don't violate the law.

The bottom line is my baby brother should have every right I have and right now the State of Hawaii is treating him like a second class citizen. He pays the same taxes I do, follows the same laws I do, he should have the same rights I have.

Michele M Golojuch

92-954 Makakilo Dr #71

Kapolie, Hawaii 96707

From: M Kimberly Lowe
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:49:52 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Kimberly Lowe, and I am 59 years old. I've been in Hawaii for over 25 years, and I live in Salt Lake. I feel obligated to speak, in support of marriage equality, because to paraphrase a popular quote, "for evil men to accomplish their purpose, it is only necessary that good men (and women) do (and say) nothing" . I cannot remain silent on this issue, when I see people standing on street corners yelling that same sex couples should not be allowed to be married. This is an appalling vision to see in my neighborhood.

I don't think anyone should be able to tell others who they can marry, and it is shameful to me that we would make any couple debate this right in public. I don't think we have a legal or moral right to dictate relationships between other people. When my father died a few years ago, at 86, he too was standing up for marriage equality. In my family, we honor the idea that marriage is a loving commitment between individuals. Some of you have seen family members try to make this decision for their loved ones, and it can tear families apart. Now this meddling in other people's lives is tearing Hawaii apart as a community.

When I was growing up, my parents' marriage was illegal in most states because of our ethnic origins. We were despised and threatened by people who thought of us as less than human. But love can overcome almost anything. They had to fight so hard to be together, but their love was strong enough to last throughout their whole lives. We were raised to be tolerant and respectful of everyone, regardless of their religion, race or other differences.

Broken homes are too common in this day and age. The world could use more loving, committed and responsible couples. Hawaii understands the value of strong, connected families and extended families, and compassionate and tolerant communities. That is part of the beauty I have seen in this state, which I have come to love. I won't fight my neighbors over who can get married, and this debate is hurting us all. I don't feel qualified to choose your life partner, and I wouldn't let you to choose mine under any circumstances. I wish the best to any couple who can commit to love and support each other for the rest of their lives. If they can sincerely commit to it, I think this union should be honored with the full benefit of a legal partnership, including shared health care, property and tax benefits.

I believe everyone has a right to enjoy their lives and families in the way they see fit. In this country, we are allowed to have and practice beliefs that are not in the majority. This is in the Declaration of Independence. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights… among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The Bill of Rights details that people have a right to practice their own religion . We do not have a right to discriminate regarding the marriages of others, based on predominant religious and social beliefs.

As a woman of native and African-American ancestry, I have to say clearly that most of the "founding fathers" were slave owners, our native ancestors were deprived of many "inalienable rights", and women (among others) were not initially allowed to vote. The US has long been a work in progress, striving to live up to a noble purpose, but our founding documents did a great job describing an ideal society. We should strive to continuously reach for that ideal. I urge you to uphold Hawaii as a state that lives up to these founding principles equally for all people.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

M Kimberly Lowe
Ala Nanala Street
Honolulu, HI 96818

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Hee, Chair; Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Committee Members: Senator Mike Gabbard, Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Senator Sam Slom, Senator Malama Solomon

HEARING DATE & TIME: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

PLACE: Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1 – EQUAL RIGHTS
I X will ☐ will not testify in person.

I am giving testimony on the issue of gay marriage, at least partially because I am a member of minorities. Five generations of my family are Mormon. All my ancestors except one great great grandmother arrived in Utah before 1869 when the transcontinental railroad united the east coast with the west coast. Her daughter, my great grandmother, and my great great grandfather had already reached Utah.

Early this month, Mormon leaders in Hawai‘i read a letter from the leadership to the members in the weekly Sunday meeting instructing members to contact the state legislators and share with their legislators how they felt about gay marriage. The letter avoided taking an official position on the issue, but the Church’s statements over the past decade leave little doubt what position the leaders wanted the members to take. In addition, the letter suggested that the members not state that they were members of the LDS Church. One minority to which I belong comes from my position as a Mormon on LGBT marriage rights. I support the right to marry.

The other minority to which I belong is that I am gay. I followed the Mormon Church’s instructions on how to cure myself–or persuade God to cure me–of my homosexuality. From the age of eighteen, when as a freshman I entered therapy at Brigham Young University, into my early fifties, I participated in the church fully. I was promised many times that if I would do “x,” God would cure me. One morning in my early fifties, I finally heard God’s message in my heart: God accepted me as I was created, not as I tried to change myself to be. I was part of God’s creation that, to quote *Genesis*, God said “was good.”

I am now legally married in California to my partner of seventeen years. I care because there is a difference between ‘domestic partnership,’ ‘civil unions,’ and marriage. ‘Separate but equal’ was deemed unacceptable by the US Supreme Court in

1954. An article in the *New York Times*, describing marriages in New Jersey on Monday 21 October 2013 just after midnight, included the following direct quote:

> Using that ruling [on DOMA] as the legal underpinning for a decision issued last month, Judge Mary C. Jacobson of State Superior Court in Mercer County found that the state's not allowing same-sex couples to marry deprived them of received federal benefits and "is currently harming same-sex couples in New Jersey in a wide range of contexts."[1]

The judge's words apply to LGBT persons in Hawai'i as well as New Jersey. Not allowing us to marry is to restrict our civil rights and deny us benefits offered other citizens. It is passed time for Hawai'i legislators to correct the wrongs committed against us.

James F. Cartwright
2525 Date St. #4105
Honolulu, HI 96826

[1] http://mobile.nytimes.com/2013/10/22/nyregion/christie-withdraws-appeal-of-same-sex-marriage-ruling-innew-jersey.html?from=homepage, viewed 21 October 2013.

From: Philip Tumbaga
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:31:49 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in vigorous support of SB 1.

Hawaii has an interest in supporting stable families, gay and lesbian parents are no less stable than opposite sex parents. In fact because of the greater difficulties in forming a family with same sex parents, the need to adopt and the planning and challenges that go into it, I would argue that the average family with same sex parents will be more stable than the family that comes about unexpectedly.

The Hawaii State government is not in the business of marriage to control spiritual choice, the purpose is to have a method to identify stable families so that those families can be supported by programs and benefits. Many of these benefits are meant to be conferred by the passage of Civil Unions, but these stable families are currently denied support at the federal level due to the simple matter of word choice.

Let's be honest with ourselves, there's a difference between the marriage one gets from the state and the marriage one gets from the church or whatever spiritual affiliation one belongs to. There is no reason to deny same sex couples the right to marry other than confusion by some that these two kinds of marriage are the same.

The bill includes provisions that make this clear, while the state will not deny marriage to same sex couples under this bill, religious organizations are able to deny marriage to same sex couples. This is not permission to discriminate this is proof of the difference between the two.

As a Christian, and I feel it's important to identify myself as one who supports his bill, I struggled with the idea of additional exemptions for faith groups such as wedding photographers, wedding cake makers, wedding dress makers, owners of popular wedding venues. But as a Christian who is supposed to share the gospel or good news I cannot support any excuse not to talk to people. These groups should be using these as opportunities to share the love of Christ not to say "we don't want anything to do with you til you stop being gay."

The exemptions within the bill are sufficient, do not allow people to discriminate and blame it on God by expanding the exemptions.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality because it is the right thing to do.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Philip Tumbaga
927 Hausten St. Apt. E
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: mpeary1947@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 5:50:27 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/22/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
margaret peary	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: *There is no need to vote on such a volatile issue in special session. *The democratic process is being circumvented. Let it be vetted properly in regular session. * Our religious freedoms are being placed in jeopardy by this bill and the public accommodations section will NOT protect churches. * Civil Unions already protect same gender couples. * SCOTUS ruled in 2007 marriage is NOT a civil right! * Let the people decide in a constitutional amendment to be voted on in 2014. * Please vote NO on SB1. Mahalo, Margaret Peary

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: toddhairgrove@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)*
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 10:24:43 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/22/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Todd Hairgrove	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

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Testimony regarding SB1, Committee on Judiciary and Labor, hearing 10/28/13 @10:30a

Aloha, My name is **Eldean Kukahiko**. I am retired from HPD(former Robbery Detective) and I am now a Pastor with Hope Chapel Kahalu'u church for 19 years. I work part-time for the City Parks and I am a Kupuna with Kahaluu Elem

I AM HERE AS A CITIZEN- I AM AGAINST THIS BILL AND HERE ARE MY REASONS:

1. ***A 5 DAY SESSION IS NOT ENOUGH TIME FOR ALL OF US TO REALLY UNDERSTAND THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS LEGISLATION THAT WILL FORCE UPON US TO CHANGE OUR DAILY LIVES AS WE KNOW IT.***
   - MARRIAGE has been an intricate institution since the beginning of creation-it has never been question or legislated-until now…for you to change this institution of MARRIAGE in 5 days is unimaginable.
   - In my dealings with people around me daily-I KNOW THEY REALLY DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON AND WHEN THEY ENGAGE IN PASSING CONVERSATION-THEY ARE CONFUSED. So, BECAUSE I DID MY INVESTIGATION AND MY HOMEWORK, I SHARE WHAT I KNOW, AND THEY BECOME CONCERNED BECAUSE THEY HAD NO CLUE.
   - IF THIS IS BEING THE CASE AND THIS BILL BEING VOTED ON ONLY BY YOU, SHOULDN'T IT BE THAT YOU BRING THIS BILL TO OUR COMMUNITY, OUR PEOPLE, AT OUR CONVENIENCE, BECAUSE YOU REPRESENT US?-…SO YOU CAN ALLOW US A MORE OPEN OPPORTUNITY TO DIALOG AND YOU CAN AT LEAST GET TO HEAR THE HEART OF THE PEOPLE, THE PEOPLE IN YOUR DISTRICT OF WHICH YOU SERVE, OF WHICH THIS BILL WILL AFFECT THE MOST.
   - OUR REPRESENTATIVES HAVE NOT HELD PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS OR HAVE HAD OPEN DICUSSION GROUPS. ALL WE KNOW IS WHAT WE READ OF THEIR VOTE-YES OR NO…SO THEY HAVE VOTED ALREADY WITHOUT HEARING US?...HOW CAN YOU MAKE A PUBLIC DECISION OF SUCH MAGNITUDE WITHOUT HEARING US?
   - TO THEIR YOUR DEFENSE-**YOU HAVE NOT HAD THE TIME TO HOLD ANYTHING!**
2. ***WHY DO WE HAVE TO MOVE SO QUICKLY?***....I HEAR FROM THE GOVERNOR AND REP CHRIS LEE AND OTHERS THAT "DEMOCRACY DELAYED IS DEMOCRACY DENIED"-***THAT I FEEL IS DECIEVING***
   - NO OTHER STATE IN THE NATION IS "FAST TRACKING" THIS ISSUE, AS FAR AS I KNOW, WE ARE THE ONLY LEGISLATIVE BODY IN THE NATION THAT IS TRYING TO **"RAM"** THIS LEGISLATION THROUGH A SPECIAL SESSION**(with limited testimony , time and opportunity and no amendments)**
   - I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN OUR STATE'S HISTORY THAT A GOVENOR HAS CALLED A SPECIAL SESSION WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING WITH THE SENATE PRESIDENT AND THE HOUSE PRESIDENT ..WHY IS THAT?..I GUEST THAT'S LEGAL…BUT IS IT DEMOCRACY? IS THERE TRANSPARENCY?
   - **I BELIEVE "DEMOCRACY NOT OPEN TO THE PEOPLE AND NOT TRANSPARENT T-IS DEMOCRACY DENIED"**
   - I HAVE HEARD REASONING THAT "WE HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE SINCE 1998 SO EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IT"- ***THIS IS DECIEVING TOO….*****WE HAVE NEVER DEALT WITH DEFINING "MARRIAGE" TO THE DEGREE OF REMOVING THE WORD AND CHANGING IT TO BE "PARTNER A AND PARTNER B"** ….LITERALLY TAKING THE WORD MARRIAGE OUT OF THE LAW BOOKS AS WE KNOW IT TODAY-THIS IS ONLY BEING DISCUSSED TODAY!
3. ***THIS SESSION HAS THE APPEARANCE THAT THE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL IS A "SLAM DUNK" A "NO BRAINER", OUR TESTIMONY AND INVOLVEMENT WILL ONLY BE A "DOG AND PONY SHOW"***
   - ***I AM DEEPLY HURT AND OFFENDED AND BOTH SIDES SHOULD BE…BECAUSE TRUE DEMOCRACY WILL NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED FOR BOTH SIDES….THIS IS NOT PONO!***
4. ***THERE TWO OTHER OPTIONS THAT IS PONO:***
   1. ***A VETTED LEGISLATION AND LET THE PEOPLE VOTE***
   2. ***A VETTED LEGISLATION THROUGH THE REGULAR SESSION***

SIMPLY PUT…….-MORE TIME-MORE IMPUT-MORE DEMOCRACY!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: hubner.eric@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:27:59 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Eric Hubner	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I wish to testify in person on Monday, Oct 28, 2013, regarding the Marriage Equality Bill AG 9.9.13

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To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Marriage equality is a the single greatest civil rights issue of our day. The simple and straightforward arguments for marriage equality are of two kinds: (1) practical and (2) moral.

On the practical side, the State of Hawaii must act now to bring state law in line with SCOTUS's recent ruling requiring that same sex couples be allowed equal access to the same rights and privileges of other married couples and that this essentially means that marriage equality is the only constitutional way to ensure such equal treatment under the law.

The moral argument concerns respecting the liberties of our GLBT brothers and sisters and treating them as those of us who may be straight wish to be treated. This means that we cannot reasonably or ethically discriminate and create second-class status that condones one group of persons who wish to marry while limiting the rights of another group who wishes to also have their loving relationships recognized on an equal footing. This is basic.

Sadly, numerous poorly reasoned counter-arguments abound opposed to gay marriage alleging fallacious harms or insisting upon deliberately absurd slippery slopes that suggest if we allow gay marriage then we will soon face a need to condone a motley list of completely unrelated unions. As for the former, no alleged harms have ever upheld under even the least bit of scrutiny and faux scientific studies have been objectively discredited. And as for the later, the supposed slippery slopes that you will have heard, either do not actually apply to gay marriage, or merely apply to marriage between same sex couples as much as it applies equally to marriage between heterosexual couples.

As a straight married man in a mixed race marriage, I am very keen on ensuring that people have no illusions about these above sorts of counter-arguments as being almost identical to ignorant and hateful agendas of the past that were directed against mixed race couples. Those arguments were invalid and unsound then against mixed race couples then and they

are invalid and unsound against GLBT couples today.

As a democratic society we simply cannot allow the myopic religiously-based infatuation of an increasingly shrinking number of people dictate who does and does not qualify for equal treatment under the law. Reason, justice and a cosmopolitan morality must prevail.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Any delay would be, in effect, a denial of justice for thousands of our citizens.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Matthew S. LoPresti, Ph.D.

From: Patrick Rorie
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Testimony for SB 1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:43:18 AM

Committee: Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Measure Number: SB 1

Date and Time of Hearing: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Testifying in person

Patrick Rorie

prorieandmnt@gmail.com

Subject: Vote "No" to the Marriage Equality Bill; put this issue on the ballot; let the people decide on marriage!

Dear Judiciary and Labor Committee:

As a long time O'ahu resident and voter in the State of Hawaii, I ask you for wisdom and courage to vote "No" to the Marriage Equality Bill.

The issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. Let the people decide on marriage!

Let's look at the facts…

1. THE SUPREME COURT RULING ON THE DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT (DOMA) DID NOT OVERTURN DOMA IN ITS ENTIRETY. This myth is being used extensively in the media to persuade the public into thinking that Hawaii must now act on our marriage laws. In fact, the US Supreme Court struck down only ONE SECTION of DOMA (section 3) so that same sex couples that are legally married in one state are allowed all the FEDERAL BENEFITS of other married couples in that state . Here is a summary to consider:

· Declaring section 3 of DOMA unconstitutional means that the federal government cannot deny legally married same-sex couples the federal benefits that are given to married heterosexual couples.

· The Court did not address the issue of whether the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to enter into a same-sex marriage or mandates that individual states must legalize same-sex marriage. Furthermore, the Court did not address the validity of section 2 of DOMA, which allows states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages performed under the laws of other states; therefore, this part of DOMA still stands. Hawaii and other states that currently

do not recognize same-sex marriages from other jurisdictions have the right to continue not to.

There is no other State in the union that is RUSHING into special session to pass an SSM law. Hawaii is being targeted by the LGBT.

2. THERE IS NOT A MAJORITY IN HAWAII OR ACROSS AMERICA THAT ARE NOW IN FAVOR OF SAME SEX MARRIAGE.

Another myth being offered by the media. The fact is there are 13 states that allow SSM at this time. By contrast, there are 29 States that have defined marriage as between a man and a woman by constitutional amendment AND another 6 States that have defined marriage as between and man and a woman through state statute. And 2 other states that legalized civil unions in the past and are now revoking that law in favor of traditional marriage.

3. VIOLATION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative affect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. And the language as it is written in the current bill is not strong enough to protect our 1st amendment rights.

Under Civil Unions, Kawaiaha'o Church has been sued 3 times. There will certainly be more lawsuits if the Marriage Equality Bill becomes law. In States where Same Sex Marriage is legal, small businesses have been sued for taking a stand for their religious beliefs. The same will happen here in Hawaii.

4. CURRICULUM CHANGES IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In California, State legislature approves bill signed by governor mandating pro-homosexual teaching in schools, with no parent 'opt-out'. The bill also prohibits any school material or instruction that reflects adversely on homosexuality, bisexuality or transgenderism, while prohibiting parents from removing children from classes over offensive material.

In Washington State, homosexuality is being taught to high school students and homosexual sexual behavior and relationships are being normalized through 'health' classes in high school;
businesses are forced to support homosexual 'weddings' and being sued by government when refusing; and judges are being forced to officiate same-sex marriages. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhguovmV5BM

If the Marriage Equality Bill becomes law, the same thing will happen here in

Hawaii. Please protect our first amendment rights by voting "No" to this bill.

4. Civil Unions (another title for Same Sex Marriage) is already law in Hawaii.

5. A University of Hawaii study concluded that more money will come into the State if Same Sex Marriage becomes law. This is simply untrue. Another study shows that gays and lesbians will travel to Hawaii regardless of the purpose, whether to get married or for a visit.

Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono, The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness. Same sex marriage is not pono!

Do not give in to pressure from Governor Abercrombie or from the Democratic Party. Do what is right and vote “No” to the Marriage Equality bill and put this issue on the ballot for the people to decide.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

God bless you!

Patrick Rorie (Hawaii resident for over 25 years, residing in Aiea, HI)

Hello . I am a physician, and a citizen of beautiful Hawaii. I am very concerned about the long-term consequences to our keiki and to society as a whole, if same-sex marriage (ssm) is legalized. At the very least you could give the people their voice with a vote. Governor Linda Lingle suggested this when she announced her position at the end of her term; you should also do this out of respect for the people. No one would fault you for doing this; in fact we would applaud you!

I would like to begin by saying that I have many gay friends and my reasons for opposing same sex marriage has nothing to do with individuals, and has everything to do with future societal consequences. The traditional family unit is capable of perpetuating itself naturally and existed before there were laws, religion, politics or government; it has kept the human race in existence. Traditional Marriage is unique and special for the very reason that it perpetuates the human race; *this special status deserves a special position in our society!* Traditional marriage respects natural law. The worst thing that could happen by making ssm law is that the human race could be eventually wiped out, by oppressing traditional union, and by propagating HIV, syphilis, anal cancer, and drug-resistant, deadly diseases, such as mult-idrug resistant tuberculosis.

Same sex marriage proposes serious dangers to our children in school; once ssm is legalized, it becomes mandated to teach homosexual acts (such as sodomy), starting from elementary school! Look at Oregon, Massachusetts, Canada, etc where this type of teaching leads children, starting at age 13 into very risky behavior, teaching them about sodomy and other sexual acts that can threaten their health in a BIG way. *The Centers for Disease Control has noticed a significant increase in the number of new HIV infections among the youngest Males having Sex with Males (MSM) (aged 13-24), with an increase of 22 percent from 2008 to 2010* [6]. This correlates with the time Massachusetts, Canada and other states forced sodomy education on young school children.
The CDC also published a report in December of 2012 regarding a serious increase in syphilis, which has been correlated with an increase in HIV due to easy transmission via open genital sores. 40% of MSM with syphilis are co-infected with HIV, and the viral load of HIV-infected MSM was significantly higher. This is what kids and parents would be facing more and more here in Hawaii if you accept marriage equality.

You may say that just because these other states forced risky sexuality teaching in schools, that this will not come to Hawaii. This thinking is flawed, because despite the people voting against ssm in 1998, it is being pushed on us now, with a significant number of people who are not residents of Hawaii and do not even live here! Do we really want our young school children prematurely forced to think about sodomy, which distracts kids and steals time from academic learning, such as science, math, technology, etc? Being forced to "decide" your sexuality at an early age causes confusion and distress, distracting students from subjects that could help them gain employment in the future. Children will be at high risk for STDs, premature loss of innocence and less time spent preparing for college. This is what is happening in states that have legalized ssm. The numbers do not lie--youth are experimenting more with sodomy, and boys are becoming infected with HIV. The schools provide names and addresses of gay bars, and places to go to experiment with sodomy and other sexual acts. The law has

forced parents to relinquish their influence over their children and hand it over to government and schools, encouraging children to disrespect their parents and engage in risky behavior.
Who will be there to care for the child with HIV? It won't be the schools--it will be the parents, yet the schools refuse to inform parents of the curriculum, and the law backs up this thinking. There is no doubt that this is an abomination--by taking away the right of a parent to protect their child!

Almost all decisions in health care are weighed with a consideration of risks, benefits and potential consequences. In our decision to treat a serious illness, such as a heart attack, there is little question of the right thing to do. I propose that the decision regarding same-sex marriage carries the same gravity as a heart attack. If all factors are considered, you will see that the risk of same sex marriage far exceeds the benefits, especially for our keiki.

If we allow marriage to adopt a same-gender status, someone will decide that it is a violation of their civil liberties to not be able to engage in polygamy and/or sex with children. We will eventually have a nation with men & women "married" to multiple men, women &/or children. It will be the end of the strength & decency of our nation, and children will be exploited. This will cause chaos and abuse to our children, as well as to our society as a whole.

Males and females are equal in dignity, and also very different. There is definitely something missing in a child's life without the love and support of both a mother and a father. SSM uses our children as human experiments: something we should never ever consider. Sociological and psychological studies have shown that children thrive when raised by both genders together in their home.[1,2] **Rosie O'Donnell said in an interview with Diane Sawyer in 2004 that her son Parker asked for his father frequently, and instinctively felt a void in his life without his Daddy. Six-year-old Parker asked Rosie: Mommy, why can't I have a daddy? Rosie answered: Because I'm the kind of mommy who wants another mommy** [3] *(Notice that the focus is on what Rosie wants, and not for what Parker needs.)* It **is not always possible for a child to have both biological parents together, and we do our best in any given situation. We must face the fact that** children living apart from both biological parents are 8 times more likely to die of maltreatment than children living with their natural mother and father.[4] **Forcing our children to be subjected to this social experiment would risk emotional, physical and mental harm to the children of Hawaii. This risk is too great.**

Vote NO to ssm and protect our children from physical, emotional and mental harm. *Please do not force our kids to be human experiments!*

As you can see, the risks of legalizing same-sex marriage far outweigh the benefits. The issue is much more complicated than a quick special session can accommodate. It is disrespectful to the citizens of Hawaii to rush into redefining marriage, when this is such a complicated issue with dire consequences.

Think about *YOUR POLITICAL LEGACY*. Do you want to be remembered as one who voted to ruin society and place our children in harm's way? One who denied the people their voice? Of course not! Stand strong for the DEMOCRATIC PROCESS and allow US TO DECIDE WITH A VOTE!

Focus on *helping Hawaii* gain strength and a better future, with a safe society for children and a special place for the only union capable of propagating naturally: *ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN!* Please leave marriage the way it is. If you cannot see to do this, then at the very least, give the people their voice and *LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!*

In summary, here are the main take-home points:

Voting for ssm:

Opposes the Will of the people
Opposes the Democratic process
Opposes Natural Law
Weakens our society (potential for polygamy and child marriage being legalized, etc)
Uses children as experiments, risking their life, health and safety
Leads to child abuse and harm to children physically, emotionally, mentally
Forces parents to relinquish their influence over their children and hand it to state government/schools
Forces children to choose their sexual preference at an early age when they are vulnerable and immature
Weakens education (distraction from academics)
Increases sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV, syphilis, etc among youth.
Steals keiki's innocence much earlier with a strong focus on sexuality starting as early as kindergarten (see what has happened in Mass., Canada, etc)
Disrespects the desire of the people.

The only fair way is to *VOTE NO and take it to a public vote! LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!!*

Thank you very much for your time and attention,

Constance A. Wong, M.D.

REFERENCES

1. Kristin Anderson Moore, et al., "Marriage From a Child's Perspective: How Does Family Structure
Affect Children, and What Can We Do About It?" Child Trends Research Brief, June 2002.

2. Mary Parke, "Are Married Parents Really Better for Children?" Center for Law and Social Policy, May
2003.

3. Diane Sawyer (Anchor), "Rosie's Story: For the Sake of the Children: Rosie O'Donnell's Crusade on Behalf of Gay Parents Seeking to Adopt Children," ABC News: "Primetime," (March 14, 2004).

4. Michael Stiffman, et al., "Household Composition and Risk of Fatal Child Maltreatment,"*Pediatrics, 109* (2002), 615-621.

5. The little black book. http://www.massresistance.info/downloads/LittleBlackBook.pdf please see pp 24, 25.

6. Centers for Disease Control. "New HIV Infections in the United States" HIV infections by route of transmission, December, 2012.

Dear Honorable Representatives,

According to the Ms. Juliet Joslin vs New Zealand case, the United Nation human rights committee, which was formed by 18 Human Right experts, stated clearly that same-sex marriage is NOT civil right.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 23, paragraph 2 stated clearly that marriage is between men and women.

"The right of men and women of marriageable age to marry and to found a family shall be recognized."

However, the people of New Zealand legalized same-sex marriage several months ago. But it passed 3 readings and took almost a year for the entire legalization process. Even though same-sex marriage is not civil right, it is recognized by the people of New Zealand.

We have a different political system in the United States but let me ask these:

1. What is marriage? And who can answer this?

The people!

A 5-day special session is not enough to collect the voice of the people on marriage. Please do not compromise democracy for what you believe "good" reason. If so, as an immigrant from China, I can share with you that this is what we called - dictatorship.

A 'Yes' vote during special session is a 'No' vote to democracy. Please, kill the bill during this special session.

Thank you.

October 27, 2013

To the Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, Senator Hee –Chair, and Senator Shimabukuro – Vice Chair,

Thank you for this opportunity to share my heart regarding this very important issue regarding same sex marriage facing our state today. I am grateful to live in a democracy where I, as an individual, am able to voice my opinion to those who are charged with representing me in our government.

Same sex marriage, unlike almost any other bill that has been heard by a legislative body in this state, will have ramifications that will change the face of our society. It will change the structure of society at its very core – its families. Our nation has seen the erosion of the family accelerate at unprecedented rates in the last 40-50 years. The effects of this erosion can be seen in all areas of society. Redefining a family – for marriage is the core of the family – will only exacerbate what is already a national disaster.

The calling of this special session on the premise that the Supreme Court's decision necessitates Hawaii's adoption of same sex marriage is a false assumption. The Supreme Court's decision did not decree that states must legalize same sex marriage, nor did it declare marriage a civil right. It simply left that decision in the hands of each state.

In 1998, the people of Hawaii believed that they sent a clear message to the state's legislative body: preserve traditional marriage – one man and one woman. Hawaii has always been a place deeply rooted in tradition. If the people have changed their stance, they should be given the chance to say so directly. If we are going to enact legislation that has such far reaching effects, it should – it must – be the direct voice of the people that ratifies it.

As important as the preservation of the family is the preservation of our religious freedoms. The language of this bill, contrary to the protestations of its authors and supporters, does nothing to protect the rights of believers. This freedom to practice our religious beliefs *is* a clear, constitutional right. Nowhere in our constitution is marriage written as a protected civil right. No person or religious institution should be forced to support same sex marriage when it is a clear conflict with their beliefs. The public accommodations statements in this bill realistically give no protection for any church that substantively reaches out to the community. The church is still a substantial bastion of social support in our society. How can it reach out to help when it is bound by fear of legal reprisal for doing so?

Finally, my greatest concern is for the children and our right, our responsibility as parents to raise our children according to our own moral structure in a climate where government is increasingly intrusive in telling parents what our children must learn. The advent of same sex marriage in Canada has brought a climate where parents are not allowed to choose what their child is exposed to. Indeed, they are not even allowed to know what is being taught. Schools there are not institutions of academic learning, but agents of social change that parents have no say in. In the United States, where schools

have long sought social change, parents have historically had the right to keep their children from exposure to moral issues that do not agree with their own value structure. This right, even now, is being eroded.

Please take a stand to preserve our families and our rights as parents. Please take a stand to allow the democratic process to work this issue out – to let the people clearly decided. Please take a stand to protect our right to believe and follow our conscience in honoring the God who made us. Please say no to this bill.

Sincerely,

Kay S. M. Hishinuma
45-161 Ekepuu Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: gpshima@aol.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:47:05 PM

Good morning, Chairman Senator Hee and senate committee members of the Judiciary and Labor committee,

My name is Glenn Shimabukuro, a 66 year old registered voter, residing at 98-500-4 Kaonohi St., Aiea, HI 96701. I want to thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony opposing this legislation.

I believe this legislation should not be considered for approval until further deliberation and analysis be done. The public has not been given the opportunity to hear, digest, review and understand the full implication of this proposal. I am concerned that this proposal is being "rushed" without much public analysis. I believe there are dire consequences for businesses, education, and health care related matters that have not been properly addressed or made known to the public.

May I urge you to vote NO to the passage of this legislation. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted by,

Glenn Shimabukuro
98-500-4 Kaonohi St.
Aiea, HI 96701

Regarding: SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights
Recognizes marriages between individual of the same sex.
Extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protection,
and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couple receive.

I strongly oppose the passage of this bill to legalize same sex marriage. I believe it will be the beginning of an assault on our citizen's rights and our children well-being.

In March of this year a task force was to convene in order to study the social, economic, and religious impact of enacting marriage equality in Hawaii. That was a prudent decision considering that the passage of this bill would impact every man, woman and child in the State of Hawaii.

Suddenly a special session is called to urgently rush this bill through approval; it is concerning and raises many red flags.

Numerous Facts and Documentation reflect the negative impact, everywhere Same-Sex Marriage has been introduced as law! In work places, education K-12, colleges, right of parents being overruled, ordinary law bidding business people being targeted, now even our military are now being targeted as the results.

Blake Oshiro trying to assure us that this will not happen in Hawaii is naïve at best, or perhaps disingenuous for the governor himself has acknowledged that if this bill was to past into law, within the next year or two, we will find ourselves facing bisexual marriage challenge.

For these reasons this bill should be stopped now … let the people decide. We are the ones to be impacted the most, our rights and the fate of our children's safety is at risk.

Do you place the desires of adults before the needs of the children?
Do you place the desires of special interest groups over the rights of the citizens of the State of Hawaii?

In closing I again ask you to vote against this bill to legalize same-sex marriage and let the people decide.

Rita L. Kama-Kimura
District 36

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: bkulbis@reagan.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:56:08 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: **I oppose changing the definition of marriage to allow same-sex marriage to be legalized in Hawai'i. **This is a major societal change that will have devastating and lasting effects like those in Massachusetts and other states across the country. The people of Hawai'i, the people that pay your salaries, those folks should be making this decision at the ballot box via a Constitutional amendment. It should not be decided by one political party influenced by special interest groups, just because you have the numbers. Failing to allow the people to make this decision is nothing more than soft tyranny, and is a direct attack on our liberty. **Hawai'i has more pressing issues that you as our Legislators should be focused on fixing: the high cost of living, the high fuel costs, the high welfare rate, the high utility costs, the poor performance of our educational system, our runaway unfunded liabilities, our runaway spending, etc…. Issues like these require a special session, not same-sex marriage that should be left to the people to decide.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

My name is Mike Kai and I am born and raised on the Big Island of Hawaii and have lived the past 25 years on O'ahu. My wife and I are the parents of three daughters and have chosen to live and remain in a state where we believe appreciated our rights to raise our daughters as our personal values dictate.

My girls' range in ages from 8 to 26 and it is for this reason that I am submitting a written testimony.

SB-1, relating to equal rights, tells me that our Governor does not respect my right, nor my responsibility as a parent. Same Sex Marriage is NOT a civil right. Additionally, the rush to push this bill through and to initiate a special session displays that the will of the people will not be considered and that the future of our state lies in the hands of 52 elected officials, not the over one million people in this great state. Democracy is not honored, the people of the state are not taken into consideration and the process is circumvented.

Please vote NO to SB-1. Mahalo.

From: sandy shimabukuro
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: InPerson and written testimony
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:30:32 PM

Good morning Chairman Clayton Hee and Senate Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee,

My name is Sandra Y. Shimabukuro, a registered voter, residing at 98-500 Kaonohi St. #4 in Aiea, Hawaii. I want to initially thank you for allowing me to testify today of my concern over this Special Session on Same Sex Marriage. I also want to express my appreciation to all of you for your service to Hawaii.

I believe this Special Session should not occur because a five day session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our lifetime and beyond.

Apparently no amendments can be made to this legislation. As a result, true democracy will not occur at this time.

There will not be enough time during these five days of Special Session for the voice of the people to be heard so a "yes" vote will be noted as a "no" vote to democracy.

We, the people of Hawaii voted on this issue in 1998. Why not wait until regular Session with more time for discussion, then allow the people of Hawaii to vote?

After much research on the effects of Same Sex Marriage in the State of Massachusetts and in Canada on the entire education system, I believe our people will be negatively impacted as well.

I believe the Godly legacy that was commissioned into the Constitution of Hawaii will be altered immeasurably by this harmful bill.

Thus, I strongly recommend as a concerned registered voter, to suspend this Special Session until more time is given for comprehensive research and analysis.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Y. Shimabukuro
98-500 Kaonohi St. #4
Aiea, Hi. 96701

Same Sex Marriage Legislation

The process is always equally important to the product in all areas of life.

Each of you campaigned on a promise of open access to you as legislators and to the government in general. Participating in a Special Session called unilaterally by the Governor violates your promise.

Each of you has a legal responsibility to conduct the business of the State in an open and honest format characterized by fairness and good faith, ensuring that the rights of all citizens are protected. Participating in this Special Session abdicates your legal responsibilities.

Each of you has an ethical responsibility to help create with personal integrity the best legislation determinable for the people of Hawai'i. The rules and procedures of this Special Session circumvent the most foundational fundamentals of democracy currently in place to insure professional, unbiased, and legally sustainable language and structure in the creation of this legislation.

Each of you has the moral responsibility to immediately put a stop to the further erosion of the rights of the people of Hawai'i you represent and prevent this Special Session from moving forward.

Rev. Dr. Bob Flores

Kaneohe, HI

Dear Judiciary Committee,

My name is Ron Yoshida and I am a registered voter in Hawai'i and live at 47-262C Hui Iwa Street, Kaneohe, HI. 96744

Although I stand in opposition to this bill, more importantly I stand in opposition to this PROCESS of trying to pass this bill in a rushed 5 DAY SPECIAL SESSION. I am humbly asking all of you as the Judiciary Committee to please vote "No" on this bill, NOT BECAUSE you don't support Same Sex Marriage, but because this very important and controversial issue SHOULD NOT BE RUSHED through in a Special 5 day Session, but should be discussed in a regular session - which is only 3 months away.

Historically, Special Sessions have been used for emergency situations only (i.e. Super Ferry, 911, Special Budget Items, etc). This Same Sex Marriage Issue is far from an Emergency situation. I believe this special session maneuver DEMONSTRATES A LACK OF RESPECT as well as an ABUSE of our Democratic process. Hawai'i has discussed in length the Civil Unions issue in the past, but we have yet to fully discuss the issue of Same Sex Marriage. The last time we talked about this was in 1998.

I believe that everyone is entitled to their opinion and we all have the right to express it based on our First Amendment right of Freedom of Speech. This rushed 5 day session, will not give adequate time for everyone to express their views. It will not give you as our elected officials adequate time to properly debate the merits of this bill. I believe that to rush this bill through in a surprise move by the Governor is somewhat insulting to the people of Hawaii. In fact, EVEN IF I WAS A SUPPORTER OF Same Sex Marriage, I would not like to have it legalized in this rushed special session fashion. It just wouldn't feel right; it wouldn't be "Pono."

Therefore, I believe legislators can still stand firm and support Same Sex Marriage while voting against the bill in this Special Session BECAUSE A "NO" VOTE would be a vote "AGAINST THE PROCESS" and not against the bill itself. The regular session is just a few months away. Let's wait.

If I may repeat this: FOR LEGISLATORS THAT SUPPORT SAME SEX MARRIAGE, A "NO" VOTE would be a vote "AGAINST THE PROCESS" and not against the bill itself.

In Hawai'i, the phrase "Talk Story" is an important part of our everyday lives. We need more time to "Talk Story" about this very important issue that will affect all of Hawai'i for years to come. I appreciate having this opportunity to write to you. I welcome a call from you to discuss this more. My cell number is 265-5566. Thank you again. And thank you again for serving me, my family, and our beloved Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Ron Yoshida

From: Calvert Chun
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: We are opposed to a Special Session on Same Sex Marriage
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:31:14 PM

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Please know that my wife Emily and I are opposed to a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue.

This is the single most important issue facing Hawaii and the country. The people should be heard. The issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages.

The use of a special session may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent. Thank you.

Calvert Chun
1054-A Alewa Drive
Honolulu, HI 96817
Cell: 808-421-7996

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 AM
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the State Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Rebecca Carlson, and I am testifying in opposition to S.B. 1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. This act states that its purpose is to grant to same-sex couples the same federal rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities granted to married, opposite-sex couples.

If marriage were simply a matter of two people entering into a life-long domestic relationship for their mutual, personal benefit, then there would be no difference whether this relationship was between individuals of the same gender or of different gender.

But there is one distinct difference between same-sex and opposite-sex relationships that cannot be legislated away. The union between a man and a woman has the potential to create new human life.

Because marriage between a man and a woman is the only kind of marriage that can bring new human life into the world, it should be given a unique standing in the law.

It is for the children that I stand in opposition to this act. To pass this act denies the importance of children to society. It is for the children that marriage between a man and a woman must be afforded the highest rights, benefits and protections that the government can bestow. It is for the children that a man and a woman who enter into marriage must be held responsible to one another and to their offspring.

In a recent report by the Center for Law and Social Policy, a non-profit organization based in Washington DC that primarily advocates for the poor, they stated:

Over the past 20 years, a body of research has developed on how changes in patterns of family structure affect children. Most researchers now agree that together these studies support the notion that, on average, children do best when raised by their two married, biological parents who have low-conflict relationships.

In 1994, Sara McLanahan and Gary Sandefur, using evidence from four nationally representative data sets, compared the outcomes of children growing up with both biological parents, with single parents, and with step-parents. McLanahan and Sandefur found that children who did not

live with both biological parents were roughly twice as likely to be poor, to have a birth outside of marriage, to have behavioral and psychological problems, and to not graduate from high school.

If this is the case, if children who grow up with both biological parents have this significant statistical advantage, shouldn't the government do all it can to protect and promote the institution of the family, consisting of father, mother, and children? Shouldn't it do all it can to promote marriage between a man and a woman as the foundation of that family? Shouldn't it give unique status to the one human relationship that is most important to ensuring that the next generation will be contributing to society rather than becoming a burden to it?

I know that all of you acknowledge the biological fact that in order to create a child you need a man and a woman. There is no other way to do it. It is also acknowledged by the social sciences that children have measurable advantages when raised by their father and mother. As to what these facts should mean to the law and to society, beliefs may differ. I ask you to respect my personal belief and the belief of every individual in these Hawaiian Islands by putting this matter to a public vote.

Once again, I ask you, on behalf of the children, to oppose the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act. Thank you for your time.

Rebecca J. Carlson

55-568 Naniloa Loop Apt. 4A
Laie, HI 96762
(808) 234-3049

October 28, 2013

Senate Committe on Judiciary and Labor
Auditorium, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii

Re: Hearing for SB1 "Relating to equality" (same sex 'marriage' in the State of Hawaii)

TESTIMONY BY - Big Island (Kailua-Kona) resident, Kenneth A. Jackson.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate - Aloha,

I have spent a good portion of the past 24-months or so educating myself on the topics of homosexuality and same-sex marriage. The conclusions that I have come to, although informed by my faith-based values, are also shaped by common sense.

My aim is to offer you a perspective that is as objective and fair as possible. As you and your colleagues prepare to vote, in response to the Governor's call for this Special Session. I strongly ask you to seriously consider the following:

1. Encourage the Governor to cancel this special session immediately, or
2. Postpone a vote on this matter until more comprehensive hearings can be conducted state-wide, especially for citizens who are unable to make their way here to Honolulu.

While there are decades worth of reliable data available to guide decisions regarding conventional expressions of marriage, accurate data on this new variety of "marriage", such as what is outlined in SB1, is actually too sparce and recent to be able to confidently make such a sweeping and comprehensive change to this fundamental component of civilized culture.

The United States of America has long been admired as a nation that enjoys the freedom to make laws that are fair to the broader population. By the way, according to a Gallup Poll published in 2012, only 3.4% of the total population in the U.SA. identify themselvs as LGBT. 3.4%. Among other inequities, that would make the idea of framing this same-sex "marriage' discussion in "civil rights" language an apples and oranges comparison.

In conclusion, I respectfully wish to remind you that we, the people, pay your salaries, not the other way around. We already made our voices heard on this issue back in 1998.

God bless you, and as our state motto serves to remind us, "***Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono"*** **- The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness.**

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Jackson
Voter/Resident - The Big Island
kenjaxn@aol.com

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
INTERIM OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

The members of the Altar Society of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa are stating our disappointment that a Special Session is being convened on October 28th, 2013, for the purpose "that the State of Hawaii should extend to same-sex couples the right to marry and receive all the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage as opposite-sex couples receive under the laws of this State;".

We believe that:

- this important decision should be voted upon by the people of the State of Hawaii.
- the public should have the right to decide whether the definition of marriage should be changed.
- this Special Session preempts the public's right to participate in casting a fair vote, a fundamental right of every citizen of the State of Hawaii.

We stand firm in our belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman, and that this definition should be upheld and remain unchanged. We ask that you please let the people decide.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 1.

Vicki Caraulia President 621-0059	Stephanie Cuyno Vice President 220-8128	Brenda Ambrosio Secretary 621-1065	Sheila Seeholzer Treasurer 622-6611
Evelyn Short Member 621-5251	Misty Abalos Member 218-9273	Valerie Dascil-Tago Member 206-919-9224	Jeanne Ishikawa Member 622-2121

ALTAR SOCIETY
OUR LADY OF SORROWS CHURCH
1403-A CALIFORNIA AVENUE
WAHIAWA, HAWAII 96786

October 13, 2013

The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Governor Abercrombie:

My name is Vicki Caraulia. I am the president of the Altar Society of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa, and a voter in the State of Hawaii. By this letter, the members of the Altar Society, are stating our disappointment regarding your Proclamation that a Special Session be convened on October 28th, 2013, at 10 o'clock a.m., for the purpose "that the State of Hawaii should extend to same-sex couples the right to marry and receive all the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage as opposite-sex couples receive under the laws of this State;".

We believe that this important decision should be voted upon by the people of the State of Hawaii who live here. We believe the public, not the legislature, should have the right to decide whether the definition of marriage should be changed.

We believe that by calling this Special Session, you have preempted the public's right to participate in casting a fair vote, a fundamental right of every citizen of the State of Hawaii.

We stand firm in our belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman, and that this definition should be upheld and remain unchanged.

You can stop this Special Session and we are asking you to do so. Please let the people decide.

Mahalo for your time.

Sincerely yours,

Vicki Caraulia

(Mrs.) Vicki Caraulia
President, Our Lady of Sorrows Altar Society

Altar Society Members:

Sheila Seeholzer (Sheila Seeholzer)

Evelyne Short (Evelyne Short)

(Misty Abalos)

Valerie Dascil-Tago (Valerie Dascil-Tago)

(Jeanne Ishikawa)

(Stephanie Cuyno)

Brenda M. Ambrosio (Brenda M. Ambrosio)

c: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
Senator Clayton Hee
Senator David Ige
Representative Sylvia Luke
Representative Marcus Oshiro
Representative Karl Rhoads

From:	russell higa
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Cc:	russell higa
Subject:	testimony
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 3:48:12 PM

This testimony is being submitted to the Judiciary Committee in regard to Senate Bill S B 1

DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

I would like to testify in person.

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee on Honorable Congregation,

My name is Russ Higa and I am born and raised in Hawaii. We all agree that this same-sex bill is a very important matter. So why is there such a rush to have it passed quickly in a special session? For important matters such as these our leaders need to take the time to gather all the facts, to look all the various perspectives, to study the consequences, and then make a well thought through decision.

Have you taken the time to study if in fact people are born as homosexuals? Are you certain that a family with two mothers or two fathers will not harm the children of that relationship? Honestly, would you freely endorse your grandchildren not having a father or a mother and instead have two mothers or two fathers? In If the studies are inconclusive or debatable should you move forward with such uncertainty? At one time our society thought that there was nothing harmful with tobacco use. But now, after millions of people have suffered we have changed the laws. I am asking that you take the time to the research before moving forward with a bill that many believe will be very harmful for the people of Hawaii. The way to preempt the suffering.

If you study American history and I'm sure you all did, you know that the pilgrims came to America because they were persecuted for their religious beliefs. The Pilgrims left England seeking religious liberty. America was founded on the premise that all people, whether Buddhist, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, or Christian, could freely worship their God, and live out their faith without persecution. This bill as it is written will severely limit the religious freedom of the people of Hawaii, and open the door for Hawaii's o'hana to be persecuted for their religious beliefs. Until you can create a bill that will protect equality to all the people of Hawaii, I recommend that you kill the bill.

May God bless you and the people of Hawaii,

Russ Higa

October 24, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing: Monday, October 28, 2013
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Place: Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Subject: Opposing of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

I am Faith Strecker, resident and voter in the Waipahu district of Oahu, and I am in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB1, Relating to Equal Rights.

SB1 is in violation of the 1st Amendment Rights, and does not allow me to freely express my thoughts, beliefs and practice whatever religion I wish.

Marriage is not a civil right, and no court, including the Supreme Court, has ever said this it is. A constitutional amendment would better address same-sex marriage and allow for ample public input.

Also, Special Session is not allowing proper vetting and discussion of this bill and is circumventing democracy, rather than promoting democracy. Same-sex marriage should not be passed in a special session because a five day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time.

A "yes" vote during special session is a "no" vote to democracy because the voice of the people is not heard in a five-days special session.

I ask for you to oppose SB1.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this Equal Rights bill.

Sincerely,

Faith Strecker

Faith Strecker

Jay Morford
95-1027 Paemoku Place
Mililani, Hawaii 96789
jay.morford@dignitymemorial.com

October 24, 2013

Dear Honorable
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Re: **S.B. 1**
RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
Special Session on Same Sex Marriage

Position: **Opposed**

As a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am **opposed** to there being a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue "Relating To Equal Rights".
As a voter in the State of Hawaii, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process. It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages.
The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion and vote on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent.

In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the voters of the State of Hawaii. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that He will continue to encourage you in all that you do.

Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

God Bless and Mahalo,

Jay Morford

Jay Morford

Dear Senators,

You face the most important decision in your career that will affect the lives of everyone long after you are gone-that is the issue of same sex marriage.

Each person needs to decide for themselves for it will affect your own family. Would your parents and your children be proud of your decision? Can you look them in the eye and honestly say that you thought of them. This is something that should be voted on by all not done in secret.

Here are some questions to consider:

1) If homosexual is natural than how does society carry on to the next generation if they can't reproduce? Does that seem natural? There is a physical distinction between a man and a woman.

2) It is not about offering the same benefits as married couples since there is "civil union." If not allowing the same benefits for homosexuality is considered discrimination based on gender than would it be ok for me to marry my brother, sister or mother who I love? Who could prevent me? It may sound outrageous to equate the two, but really is it? Who says that it is? What about polygamy? Who ever says that a person could only be married to one person that would be discrimination too since a person is only limited to one person? Why not two? Just because two people are in love should that be the basis of getting married? Is it just a matter of your opinion or is there really a standard of right and wrong that affects our conscience. God has put it in our hearts.

3) What are the gender role models of men (masculinity) and women (femenity) and how does it affect a child growing up trying to figure out who they are?

4) Just because some people are <u>inclined</u> to a certain behavior ie. homosexuality that doesn't mean its acceptable. Does it? Is incest between two consulting adults all right if it is not hurting anyone? The point being made is that inclination to a certain behavior doesn't make a behavior right.

Please do not allow same sex marriage to become a law. Remember this decision will live with you for the rest of your life and you are making the decision that will affect everyone you love. Take a stand and vote your conscience.

Thomas

SB1 "SPECIAL SESSION ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE – THE PEOPLE MUST VOTE!"
Submitted on: 10/22/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Toby Rushforth	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: There is no way to sugar coat my comments on this current "CRISIS approach" to the "Same Sex Marriage" issue!. Frankly, this has nothing to do with Social Justice or Equal Rights! It's all about the survival of our culture. What is being proposed in this Special Session," devalues the cornerstone of Western Civilization, the FAMILY. Providing various incentives promoting family life is virtually a "prime directive" of any culture's evolution and for its very survival. I dare you to investigate the honest, well documented, legacy of "Same Sex Marriage" in Massachusetts-downright scarey!

So - In the only formal public vote ever conducted on the "Traditional Marriage" Issue, in 1998, the public voted more than 2-1 in favor of "Traditional Marriage." This resulted in "Hawaii Constitution Amendment 2" clearly stating that: "*The legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples*." Exceedingly simple, right??

So now the Governor and Legislature are declaring that MARRIAGE is to be a gender and familial "Free for All." They say that what the public really meant in the 2-1 vote favoring Traditional Marriage, is that the Legislature can now declare Same Sex Marriage as the law of the land!. Some tortured lawyering thought that one up. What we have here is a classic "Bait & Switch" scheme.

The Governor is asking the Legislature to perform some incredible legal gymnastics here. By doing the Governor's bidding, the Legislature will be denying the people a vote on one of the most important public issues of our life time. I defy anyone in the Legislature to stand before the voters and explain why they will not be allowed to vote (again) on this critical, culture defining issue.

The Legal Mumbo Jumbo being used to justify this Legislative "Special Session" endorsing Same Sex Marriage is breath taking. Yet you seem to be buying it?

I am deeply embarrassed by the system of governance that allows you as our representatives, to conduct this special session to pervert the will of the people. There is truly no compelling reason for this Special Session of the Legislature, other than a manufactured "Crisis" to pursue a political agenda that cannot stand the test of the ballot box. FOR SHAME!

Testimony Presented Before the
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

October 28, 2013 10:30a.m.

By
Joel Weaver, Testifying in person

SB 1 RELATING TO SAME SEX MARRIAGE

Dear Chair Hee and Vice Chair Shimabukuro

I am a 27 year resident of the state of Hawaii and proud to have been a registered and engaged voter for 26 of those years.

I am opposed to this bill because I believe it circumvents basic principles of democracy and opens a veritable Pandora's box of unforeseen legal, social, and economic issues.

There are many reasons for my opposition to this bill. Among them are:
--This rushed special session does not allow enough time to discuss one of the most controversial issues of our time.
--The refusal to allow amendments means that democracy is not being allowed to function.
--In 1998, the people of our state believed the issue had been settled. This is such a momentous social issue that the people should be allowed to vote again.
--A constitutional amendment would better address same-sex marriage AND allow for ample public input.
--Marriage is NOT a civil right, and no court (including the Supreme Court of the United States) has ever said that it is.
--None of the other states that do not currently permit same-sex marriages are rushing into a special session. The regular session starts in January—10 weeks away!—so why not introduce this bill during the legislative session so it can be fully vetted?
--The so-called "religious exemption" language in the governor's bill is invalidated due to the public accommodations carve out. This would potentially lead to violations of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The bill must be amended to correct this, but this five-day session allows no amendments.

Each of these concerns **by itself** is reason enough to refuse to pass this bill during a hastily assembled special session. Redefining the meaning of marriage is social engineering on a GRAND scale, and deserves adequate public discussion before being adopted on a statewide basis.

Thanks for giving the people a voice, and refusing to ram this bill through. Thanks for allowing this issue to be brought up in the course of the regular session for discussion and debate, as issues are intended to be dealt with in a normally functioning representative democracy.

Mahalo

Sharon Traci Stanley
3630 Maunalei Ave #A
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

1. It extends parentage rights that would transfer Native Hawaiian ethnicity to non- Native Hawaiian individuals.
2. It provides that same-sex couples married in the state, but who do not live in Hawaii, the right to return to Hawaii courts for divorce, annulment and separation proceedings. Hawaii taxpayers will be paying for these costs.
3. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
4. It fails to protect Bishops, Priests and other clergy members from lawsuits.

I ask you to vote NO on Senate Bill 1. Thanks you for your service.

Sincerely,

Sharon Traci Stanley
Hawaii Voter

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any same-sex marriage issue.

Same-sex marriage is not a civil right. On 30 November 1998, two couples involved in Quilter v Attorney-General sued New Zealand before the United Nations Human Rights Committee claiming that the country's ban on same-sex marriage violated the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Committee rejected the case on 17 July 2002 and commented that 'reading of article 23, paragraph 2, is consistent with the travaux préparatoires of the Covenant. Article 23 was drawn directly from article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides, in the only gender-specific reference in the Declaration, to the right of "[m]en and women … to marry". The travaux préparatoires of article 23 also contain repeated references to "husband and wife". Such an interpretation is also confirmed by respected academic commentary, and by decisions of the European Court of Human Rights which have repeatedly found that the equivalent provision of the European Convention does not extend to homosexual couples.' No court (including the United States Supreme Court) has ever said that same-sex marriage is civil right.

It is my opinion that the issue of same-sex marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same-sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people.

To : All Legislators, State of Hawaii House of Representatives

From : Henry Lindo Jr
Molokai, Hawaii

Re : Marriage Equality Bill Special Session

Date : October 25, 2013

Aloha to our House of Representative Legislators,

I thank you all for your hard work and years of tireless effort and dedication to the people of Hawaii and your respective districts.

I am humbly asking for your support against this Marriage Equality Bill because I believe this issue should be decided by the people and not our legislators. We can argue the fact that when the people of Hawaii last voted on the issue of same sex marriage that the people voted against it however the constitutional amendment wording reflected that the 'legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples.' It did not in any way state that the legislature shall have the power to allow same sex marriage and I believe that something as controversial as this should be in the hands of the voters and that time and attention should be taken in really looking into the effects a law such as this would have on society instead of accepting it hand in cheek that this law would be harmless on all facets of society and that it would only allow same sex people to marry without imposing on the rights and freedoms of others.

The Marriage Equality Bill seems harmless enough in that it would just give the same rights to all marriages, irrespective of gender, without imposition upon churches, businesses and individuals. However I believe that this bill is a wolf hidden in sheep's skin and clothing because it's what happens after the law is passed where the true fruit and intentions will show its fangs. Have you all truly taken the time to research the other states which have passed same sex legislation and seen some of the alarming judgments and impositions upon establishments, businesses, schools and individuals because those same sex laws designed to create equality were actually hammered upon the society in order to enforce and engrave their beliefs as personal rights and freedoms upon everyone else. As much as I believe in equality and fairness to all, there has to be a point where the leaders in society have to realize and question any act from one individual or group upon another to influence and force their beliefs upon any who would not agree and believe in the same things as the group. If you agree with that then you agree with martial law being imposed because you feel it is your right and belief that all should participate in it. Is that beneficial to the whole or to just a few that would benefit from its passing?

If you were to look at the actual amount of people in the gay and lesbian community who actually get married then you would see how truly small those numbers are so you must

consider the true reasons behind the establishment and passing of a Marriage Equality bill. Is it to serve the purpose of the community or to serve the groups or organizations that would benefit in the future if such legislation passed? I believe that this law would just be a stepping stone for hidden agendas of the organizations behind the movement to force and impose their homosexual beliefs and acceptance of their beliefs on all of society including the social, political and commercial realms. I believe that the bigger picture of what happens after the passing of such legislation is what is at stake and the using of a so called harmless marriage equality bill is just the match that is needed to create an inferno of imposing rights, freedoms and beliefs upon society. So this bill is just a front to the true intentions behind it and I would hope that you truly take the time and attention needed to see the whole picture and realize that this bill is larger than you believe it to be. I believe you should not pass it through and allow the people to vote and decide instead of taking this boulder upon your shoulders and deciding for society and humanity sakes.

Just so you all know I am a local Hawaiian man who loves all people regardless of the choices that people make in life. I may not agree with the lives that people choose but who am I to impose my beliefs and values on others especially through legislation no matter how well meaning I believe they are. I have many personal friends and family whom I love dearly who have same sex partners and choose those lifestyles and I love them regardless of their choices and I always will. With this understanding, however, I do have my beliefs which only allow marriage between opposite sex couples. I believe we were designed and created this way by God to populate the earth and also to maintain moral standards of integrity to teach future generations and I believe that any deviation from these standards through such acts as allowing same sex marriage would continue to degrade society and change the atmosphere of the place we live and grow. The Founding Fathers of this Nation and the Kings and Queens of Hawaii of the 1800's knew the Godly principles and established these nations upon these righteous principles for a reason. The Hawaii State Motto states "Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono or the life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness". This nation was founded and established on righteousness but we as a society and as leaders have allowed the rules to change by placing people's personal rights and freedoms above moral standards instead of allowing moral standards to dictate rights and freedoms without the imposition upon others' rights, freedoms and beliefs. I believe that detrimental ramifications to our society would continue and worsen further by allowing this bill to be passed. When societies can grow without imposing on other people's rights and freedoms, then that society can function unhindered and our generations after can continue to thrive and to grow up in a place of moral peace and joy. And that's what we stand to lose in our beautiful place of Hawaii if we allow this bill to pass. Our society would be dictated by what a couple people or groups feel would be fair and just to allow their rights and beliefs to be pushed and enforced upon society so that they can be accepted in a place that already accepts the as they are. Marriage is a holy and sanctified union between a man and a woman for lifelong commitment to each other and not a right that people are calling it to be so why fight for a right that is not even theirs in the first place. It's because as I said earlier this is just the stepping stone to some other agenda. So please take careful consideration in seeing the entire picture and not just a couple bits of information that seems to be harmless.

So I thank you all again for your time and consideration with my testimony. I am asking that you vote “NO” on this bill and let the people decide. Don’t be a part of the reason that our Hawaii would be turned into something unrecognizable and so marriage equality rights driven that our society would continue to be degraded more than it already is. Be the voice that speaks truth and help maintain a moral standard of excellence that our future generations and heritage can be proud of. Keep marriage holy and sanctified the way it was created to be and allow our children to grow up in a society that has moral integrity and yet invites the opportunity for people to choose whatever lifestyle they live without imposing their values and beliefs on others. We can all accept that we live in a changed society with different genders, lifestyles and choices but just because a person believes and lives a certain way it does not give them a right to impose their beliefs upon me, my family and my society which is what this bill does. I belief this bill is just a springboard to introduce and impose a lifestyle and belief for their societal approval and acceptance and would lead to their hidden agendas surfacing in the future. We already grow up in a State that accepts people for who they are so why go the extra mile and give them a right that does not belong to them or anybody for that matter. So please vote “NO” and may God bless you all and your families and continue to give you wisdom and knowledge to the best in the functions and positions in which you serve.

Much Mahalo,

Henry Lindo Jr

From: Patriotonhi50@aol.com
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: SB-1 Personal Testimony of Philip Nasca
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:24:04 AM

Aloha;

A special session has been called to grant those who choose to engage in homosexual behavior the same status as heterosexual couples through the Legislature granting the right to marry someone of the same gender.

Does the Legislature have this authority? Lets examine both the Hawaiian Monarchy's conclusion of where our rights derive as well as the Declaration of Independence.

The 1st Constitution of Hawaii Oct. 8 1840 states: "it is our design to regulate our Kingdom according to the above principles & thus seek the greatest prosperity both of all Chiefs and people of these Hawaiian Islands. But we are aware that we cannot alone accomplish such an object- God must be our aid, for it His province alone to give perfect protection and prosperity....

It is therefore our fixed decree, 1) that no law shall be enacted which is at variance with the Word of the Lord Jehovah, or at variance with the general Spirit of His Word."

The Declaration of Independence July 4,1776

"When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. "

Both the Hawaiian Kingdom and the united States of America were founded on the truth that God alone grants authority to men to govern and that if we hope to have secure and blessed nations our Legislators must acknowledge God's benign Wisdom and not create laws which violate His Natural Law.

Most of our esteemed elected officials claim to be Democrats. Many consider themselves "Jeffersonian" Democrats. Carved in stone on the Jefferson memorial is his quote:"God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever."

Therefore it is clear, since God created marriage to be between one man and one woman no human agency has the authority to redefine marriage.

If we truly love our fellow citizens we can not call same sex relationships Marriage, because history has shown time & again that "the life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness". Though we fall short we must make it our aim to seek His righteousness not man's.

I therefore humbly remind our legislators that "We The People" voted overwhelming to uphold God ordained marriage and that those who all along sought to subvert God's plan for families wrote the amendment in such a way as to grant the Legislators, who claim to represent the will of the People, the authority to redefine marriage.

The family is hurting, God can heal them but we must be willing to live by His Truth. Our State can not be Blessed by trusting in those who would use deception to achieve their ends!

For the sake of our Keikis therfore I urge you to listen to the will of the People,listen to the Wisdom of our elders, honor and trust in God's care and love for us and vote No on this bill to preserve His blessings on our Nation, our State and especially on our families.

From: Adam Au
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: *****SPAM***** TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:33:42 AM

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any same-sex marriage issue.

Same-sex marriage is not a civil right. On 30 November 1998, two couples involved in Quilter v Attorney-General sued New Zealand before the United Nations Human Rights Committee claiming that the country's ban on same-sex marriage violated the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Committee rejected the case on 17 July 2002 and commented that 'reading of article 23, paragraph 2, is consistent with the travaux préparatoires of the Covenant. Article 23 was drawn directly from article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides, in the only gender-specific reference in the Declaration, to the right of "[m]en and women … to marry". The travaux préparatoires of article 23 also contain repeated references to "husband and wife". Such an interpretation is also confirmed by respected academic commentary, and by decisions of the European Court of Human Rights which have repeatedly found that the equivalent provision of the European Convention does not extend to homosexual couples.' No court (including the United States Supreme Court) has ever said that same-sex marriage is civil right.

It is my opinion that the issue of same-sex marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same-sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people.

Sincerely,

Adam Au

HAWAII CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
6301 Pali Highway
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224

Online Submittal
Hearing on: Monday, October 28, 2013
Capitol Auditorium

DATE: October 25, 2013
TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
From: Fr. Gary Secor, Vicar General, Diocese of Honolulu
Re: Strong Opposition SB 1 Relating to Equality (Redefining Marriage)

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I am Fr. Gary Secor, **representing the Hawaii Catholic Conference**. The Hawaii Catholic Conference, the public policy office of the Roman Catholic Church in the State of Hawaii under the current leadership of Bishop Larry Silva, has for many years come before this legislature to express its profound opposition to the legal recognition of same-sex civil unions and marriages within our state. The Conference's opposition to legal recognition of these forms of relationship is based not only on the religious teachings of the Catholic Church, but also out of the church's concern for the potentially negative sociological impact such relationships may eventually have on society.

The Catholic Church opposes the redefinition of marriage based on the clear understanding that the complementarity of man and woman is intrinsic to the meaning of marriage. The word marriage describes the exclusive and lifelong union of one man and one woman with the possibility, in many cases, of generating and nurturing children. Other unions exist, but they are not marriage.

In marriage, a husband and a wife make a public and reciprocal commitment, assuming duties to society, to themselves, and to their children. Society and the law reciprocate by bestowing on traditional marriage a privileged status that recognizes the essential role that families play in society. The family, based on marriage, is a natural institution that is prior to the state. As such, the reservation of marriage to the union of one man and one woman is a fact of nature, not a social prejudice.

The Church is also concerned that its religious freedom and conscience rights, both individually and collectively, continue to be protected. We fail to see how this bill takes these concerns adequately into account.

In recognition of the critical role marriage plays in the well-being of future generations and a stable society, the Church advocates for public policies that protect traditional marriage and promote the security of the family. Because of this, our diocese will continue to strongly advocate for the definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

6301 Pali Highway • Kaneohe, HI 96744-5224 • Ph: 808-203-6735 • Fax: 808-261-7022
E-mail: wyoshimitsu@rcchawaii.org | hcc@rcchawaii.org | www.catholichawaii.org

From: prayer center of the pacific
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: *****SPAM***** SB 1 Equal Rights
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:12:18 PM

SB 1 Equal Rights
Oct. 28,2013 10:30 Am Auditorium

Dear Committee Judiciary and Labor, Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

My Name is Pastor Virginia Domligan
The Prayer Center of the Pacific

Today, I made time to come out from the trenches to testify to your committee with all humility of heart your decision on every bill that you sign which passes your committee and other committees how it effects society as a whole and individually. I will address the issue at hand SB 1 relating to equal rights. Allow me this brief moment to share the effects of the laws that passed through that touches lives in every part of society here in our beloved State of Hawaii. In 1970 a bill was passed for abortion with no restriction no parental notification. 52 Million abortions have been reported in America nobody knows the effects unless you're in the trenches I am here to share a firsthand experience a 15 year old comes in just had an abortion the day before her boy friend paid for it no parental notification she lays in the clinic as the doctor proceed to suck out the fetus and left the pieces in a tray for her eyes to see. She is 15 years old devastated crying without any comfort this is only one of the many stories we find in the trenches of this life because of laws passed. Addressing the issue at hand A young man lay's in the hospital ashamed suffering dyeing of full blown aids because of his life style choice of having anal sex with another man. Yes, his partner was at his bed side what pain and sorrow their family all suffered. Their hearts where heavy because of their choices. Who paid the hospital bill he was unable to work for a long time this was self afflicted. **It's not about equal rights it's about a life style choice that is not natural that will affect the fabric of our society**. There was been no such practices since the beginning of society it has always been a man and a women in wedlock. Like everything else did your committee do an environmental impact study on society there are facts coming out from Massachusetts and Canada on same sex marriages and its effects. Have you studied the facts and weighted the cost on how it will impact the State of Hawaii as a whole. You have decided so hastily without the people's voice in every Island don't you feel convicted remember the Constitutional Amendment, Let the people decide place it on the ballot for a vote. We the people of Hawaii who you represent want to decide it is our right as a citizen we want due process. **Vote No to SB 1 Equal rights.**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: lyparkin@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:13:19 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Lucy Parkin	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I am a resident in the Kakaako area. I strongly oppose the Governor's bill, SB1. I believe in the definition of traditional marriage is between one man and one woman. Please do not let this bill pass as is, this matter should be an open discussion and given to the people of Hawaii to vote. Mahalo, Lucy Parkin

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Estrelita T. CASTRO

I am a registered voter of the State of Hawaii, a mother, a grandmother, a Christian, a law abiding citizen of this state and the United States of America. I am here because:

Number 1) I am deeply concerned about the ramification of this gay-rights bill or any similar legislation that forces ordinary citizens to become criminals if they refuse to obey orders that go against their moral principles. Records show states and countries where gay-rights bill are implemented, many of their ordinary citizens have been fined and criminalized when they have tried to stay within their personal beliefs and refuse to obey laws that go contrary to their conscience.

Number 2) I am concerned about the legacy our generation leaves behind for the keikis of these islands, this beautiful state of ours, as well as the whole United States of America. It is not about us, it is about the generation we leave behind. Keikis have the right to be protected and shielded. We do not have to have sex taught them at and early age as early as kindergarten. We were not robbed of our childhood innocence. The generation before us assured us of that. Who are we to do rob our grandchildren of the same safety precautions our parents and grandparents gave us?

As members of the legislature you were voted in to represent the ordinary people of these islands. I also think you are to protect the rights of our mo'opunas as well. Most of you remember your childhood because our schools were so different then. We respected our parents, the flag, our country. Those are legacies that are being eroded by this cancerous idea that gays have rights that take precedence over the rights of our children. OUR CHILDREN comes first before their rights. OUR CHILDREN are not 3rd class citizens that they are to be put in harms way.

I am deeply concerned that my grandchildren will have to leave in fear of pedophiles who have as I speak are trying to push legislation to protect their sexual preferences. It is unconscionable that you would not protect our children and protect pedophiles.

Please ladies and gentlemen, I beg of you protect our children. Do what is PONO!

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:20:27 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Johanna
Last Name:	Akina
Email:	hanaakina1@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousands of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in the special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Johanna Akina
Kahuku, Hawaii 96731

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:20:53 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	John
Last Name:	Lafleur
Email:	Volcanojcl316@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
John Lafleur

(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)
Volcano, Hi. 96785

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:24:12 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Kuan Chung
Last Name:	Su
Email:	suatcis@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Su Kuan Chung)
(Laie, Hawaii)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:36:40 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Aprille Lyn
Last Name:	Paned
Email:	aprillepaned@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aprille Lyn Paned
(Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:36:52 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Breanna
Last Name:	Gray
Email:	bpgray26@go.byuh.edu
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Breanna Gray
La'ie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:40:28 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Heidi
Last Name:	Alterson
Email:	Heidia@aol.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Heidi Alterson)
(Evanston, Illinois, 60202)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:51:39 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	John
Last Name:	Honold
Email:	john@onelove.org
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. Given the incredible importance of this decision, I ask that you would allow the people of Hawaii to decide rather than members of the senate and house. Please use this time to constructively design a process by which both sides can present unemotional arguments in a productive manner that leads to a public vote. I am concerned about the slow erosion of my religious freedom, as government is wrongfully using the phrase "separation of church and state" totally out of legal context and passing legislation that restrict my liberties and open a pandora's box of opportunity to further whittle down my rights as a US citizen to worship freely. I am praying for all of you, for your families and the people of Hawaii -- gay, straight, religious, non-religious. This is our home. At the end of the day, we will find a way to not only co-exist, but treat each other with

respect, dignity and aloha. Please let all in the 808 who can vote, do so!

Aloha Ke Akua and Mahalo!

John Honold
Kapolei 96707

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:57:21 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	john
Last Name:	scovel
Email:	jmscovel@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

Dear Committees,

My name is Michele Okimura and a registered voter, and I was born and raised here in Hawaii. As an associate pastor, I represent about 50 people from Hope Chapel Lifespring. I am opposed to Same Sex Marriage and legalizing this Same Sex Marriage in this Special Session. I strongly believe if passed, this bill will negatively affect our state and our education system. Being a former public school teacher for about 17 years, I care deeply about our keiki and youth.

As legislators, you have all taken an oath to uphold democracy and the democratic process. This bill is being fast tracked in this special session without the true opportunity for amendments to be made, which clearly shuts out the public. In addition, the religious exemption language does not adequately protect our religious organizations and their affiliates, thereby violating First Amendment protections under the U.S. Constitution.

Respectfully, I ask you not act on this same sex marriage bill during this special session, and re-introduce it during the regular session, allowing the public to be heard.

Sincerely,

Michele Okimura
3354 East Manoa Road
Honolulu, HI 96822
988-9375

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:11:48 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	John
Last Name:	Smith
Email:	papakaiboards@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:16:58 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Marie
Last Name:	Ruhland
Email:	mamasonruhland@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Marie Ruhland
Hilo, HI. 96720

October 28, 2013 @ 10:30 am

TO: Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

We can't be silent on this issue. I am speaking as a concerned citizen and I care for the people of Hawaii as a whole. Please vote, "NO" To Special Session & Same Sex Marriage. You know it is the only answer that will free you, your family and the people of Hawaii from going through another law that has a lot of loop holes that will follow, later.

Our children of Hawaii have rights, too. Voting "NO" will continue to give our children the Freedom of Speech to express their culture and continue to live the "Aloha Life Style" they are taught from their home, their school, and their religion.

I will close with this:

"When you are going through something hard and wonder where God is, remember the teacher is always quiet during a test".

Thank you and Mahalo Nui Loa,

Patricia K. Souza

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:18:55 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Greg
Last Name:	Ruhland
Email:	honolii@gmai.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Greg Ruhland, MD
Hilo, HI. 96720

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:24:34 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Larry
Last Name:	Aoki
Email:	aokilj@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here) Larry S. Aoki
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)
Keaau,Hi. 96749

From:	Jeremy Moncur
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Opposition to SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 7:48:08 AM

Dear State Rep.,

I stand in strong opposition to Bill SB1. Please do not let this pass.

Jeremy Moncur

--

Jeremy Moncur, MBA
HI Web Designs, Project Manager
(808) 386-0053

From: Melvin Ah Ching
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: FW: Same Sex Marriage Testimony
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:31:36 AM

From: Judy Taggerty [mailto:kjtagon19@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:55 PM
To: Judy Taggerty
Subject: Same Sex Marriage Testimony

Aloha Honorable State of Hawaii Chair leaders,

Thank you for your service to our Hawai'i Nei, it is very much appreciated.

We were hoping to ask you to PLEASE LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE ON MARRIAGE. as this is such an important issue that will have a huge lasting impact to our Aina, Ohana and Keiki forever with the passing of Same Sex Marriage and The Bill for an Act that is proposed. It will only be the Same Sex couples who benefit, not anyone else. It's as though everyone else is second class citizens and have to do what we are told or there will be many more who will lose their homes, businesses, jobs etc, if the gays are not happy with something. This is not living Aloha.

Seeing that Civil Union provides Same Sex Couples with benefits now and if they want more they can go to one of the States that has chosen to legalize Same Sex Marriage. And it would be wise for Hawaii to see what has happened to those states. Especially in the Public schools, the homosexual training of Kindergarten children thru high school, where parents don't have a say in what their child is being taught.

Kona had another huge AIDS outbreak a few months ago in our homosexual community, this is a major concern. HEALTH.

The Gays are pushing the Dept of Health to accept their blood, as it is not safe. But if it is accepted then it too would be deemed "normal" as Traditional Marriage will deem it "Normal". With the homosexual community a very small percent of our community why is everything being changed and so FAST? Everyone else has to change, possible suffer and have to live walking on egg shells in fear they will be sued for not making the gays happy.

There was a Gay Parade in Kona about 2 yrs ago, the gays gave out condoms to little children, the parents were OUTRAGED. I do not think they are welcomed to have another Gay Parade in Kona again.

Please let the People of Hawai'i decide on Marriage, Please. From what I have heard it is Constitutional, would be nice to have it legal and above board, not under the table quick deal. This is our FUTURE. Please give it lots of thought. Think about the children, that is my main concern, the little ones. Adults chose for themselves, someone has to speak up for the Keiki.

Mahalo for your time and attention in this matter.
I know you are all very busy. I do appreciate it very much.

Mahalo,
Judy Taggerty-Onaga
Kalaoa Kona HI
(808) 325-6551

The question before us is more than simply issuing a marriage certificate to same-sex couples and giving homosexuals the "right to marry" in Hawaii. The question is one of huge personal and social ramifications that need to be carefully studied and addressed.

The underlying issue is moving the ancient boundary of marriage between a man and a woman and forcing all of society to accept and embrace homosexuality as good and normal, causing many to violate their conscience.

As stated in our 1st Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof…"

What is the free exercise of religion? It is living by ones convictions. Herein lies the problem with legalizing same-sex marriage. Inherently legal recognition of same-sex marriage "prohibit s the free exercise thereof" of many Christians, Jews, Muslims and others who will be forced choose between breaking the law or violating their conscience as they live their daily lives.

You may ask, "How so?" Let's look at a sampling of what is happening around our nation:

Seven years ago New Mexico photographer Elaine Huguenin and her husband declined to photograph a same-sex commitment ceremony citing it conflicted with their Christian beliefs and have been in court ever since. In late August, the New Mexico **Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the couple had to choose between operating their business and living according to the convictions of their faith**. The core of what's happening to the Huguenins is basically a government action to suppress dissent and force affirmation to a specific set of beliefs, which is a threat to basic First Amendment freedoms. (CITIZEN Magazine, November 2013, pg. 18)

In Gresham, Ore., bakery owners Aaron and Melissa Klein were under investigation by the state for refusing to do cakes for same-sex weddings, citing their Christian faith. Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian told the press that "the goal is never to shut down a business. The goal is to **rehabilitate.** For those who do **violate the law**, we want them to learn from that experience and have a good, successful business in Oregon. (CITIZEN Magazine, November 2013, pg. 6)

It is a very dangerous trend when laws force us to violate our conscience and the government thinks it has the right and responsibility to "rehabilitate" our religious convictions!

The Vallejo City Unified School District of California is prohibiting the free exercise of religious beliefs of parents by **mandating homosexuality teaching for elementary age children without parental permission — or even prior notification**. Ironically, the curriculum at issue

is called **Respect for All** and is being mandated for all students under the category of bullying prevention.

Parents are being told they cannot opt their children out of the Respect for All program, which is produced by the gay activist film company Groundspark., despite objections being raised about young children who may not be psychologically or emotionally ready for the topic, or homosexuality promotion that conflicts with a family's deeply held religious convictions. **(**http://www.citizenlink.com/2010/12/02/fighting-fire-with-fire-or-bullying-with-bullying/)

As you can see, the issue is beyond simply handing out marriage certificates to same-sex couples. It is about redefining society and prohibiting the free exercise of religion by restricting citizens the freedom to live by their convictions.

Something so huge, so passionate, with so many ramifications, reaching into every area of our lives, from our livelihoods to our children's education, must not be rapidly pushed through by a few. The decision needs to be made by the voters.

In 1998, we thought we had settled the issue when we raised our voices and made known our stance in a referendum vote. Unfortunately, the amendment includes the clause "The legislature shall have the power". Unfortunately, we trusted the legislature to steward our clear desires, and unfortunately, the legislature is not listening to the will of the people.

Do you really want to know the will of the people? Oppose SB1. Take the time to honestly educate the citizens of Hawaii about the real issues and huge ramifications of legalizing same-sex marriage – the prohibition of the free exercise of religion. And then, let the people decide.

From: Lucy Staples
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Hawaii Defending Marriage | Let the People Decide on Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:43:27 PM

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http://letthepeopledecideonmarriage.org/

Dear Chair Hee and Committee Members,

We would like to voice our opposition to the bill SB1, the Marriage Equality Act, which is being heard at the special session of the state legislature. We do not want to discriminate against anyone's choice or lifestyle, but it is certain that passage of this bill will redefine marriage (traditionally between a man and a woman) in such a way that alternate lifestyles will be held up as models for the upcoming generations, confusing impressionable youth. It is important that the only marriage relationship to be officially recognized is the union between a man and a woman, in order for young people to learn that children should be born and grow up in a home with both a mother and a father. In this setting, the needs of children, families, and society are best served.

We think it important for the people of the State of Hawaii to have a voice in this decision, and that it not be simply legislated and mandated by due process of law. Past votes have indicated that the majority of residents of the great state of Hawaii are opposed to same sex marriage. We ask you to respect the voice of the people and represent their interests accordingly.

This bill does not offer protection for those whose religious beliefs would be offended or limited under the umbrella of 'equality.' We believe strongly in the power of the First Amendment, and we believe that it exists to protect both the majority and the minorities. We believe that marriage between a man and a woman has been a pattern set by God from the beginning of time to bring children into the world, and we do not believe that we should have to open our churches to same sex marriage, thus offending God and disregarding His teachings on marriage and family.

Please consider your constituents, and place this decision in the hands of the voters in Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

David and Lucy Staples
59-229 Kanaloa Drive
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:50:12 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Jarren
Last Name:	Soong
Email:	jarrensoong@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. (Enter your text here) Because this draft of a bill is extremely unfair. The people who is us should be able to vote and voice our opinion especially on a matter that is so sensitive. I am also writing this because I have seen da reports on the ramifications from Massachusetts and Ontario Canada. Every public establishment will be liable to be sued. The education system will aslo be helpless and filled with GAY sex education LITTLE BLACK BOOKs that will pollute the minds of our children and us parents will have no say if we want our children to view them. This draft of a bill will only make our government weaker and expose the people of Hawaii to more danger like plural marriage. I am a very concerned Native Hawaiian citizen. I pray with all my heart that theegislature will hear my plea and that it will not fall on deaf ears and to LET THE PEOPLE VOTE on this issue. That is the ONLY fair and equal way. Mahalo nui.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: calchinen@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:00:46 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Cal Chinen	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Chairman Hee and Judiciary and Labor Committee, Please vote NO on this bill and allow more discussion and debate on this issue by allowing this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Rushing it through will make a mockery of our Democratic Process that our forefathers gave their lives to establish and protect. Mahalo, Cal Chinen

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: joychinen@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:02:22 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Joy Chinen	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Chairman Hee and Judiciary and Labor Committee, Please protect traditional marriage and centuries of Hawaii's culture and traditions by voting "NO" on this Marriage Equality Bill. Mahalo, Joy Chinen

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Cheryl Toyofuku
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: *****SPAM***** Testimony in Opposition to Special Session and SB 1, Relating to Equality
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:06:26 AM

Senate Bill: SB 1, Relating To Equality

Hearing Date & Time: Monday, October 28, 2013

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Place: State Capitol Auditorium

Testimony in Opposition to Special Session and SB 1, Relating to Equality

To: Chairman Clayton Hee, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Cheryl Toyofuku, 1025 Noelani Street, Pearl City, HI 96782, ph: (808) 561-0369

Mahalo for your service to Hawaii. As a registered voter in these beautiful islands of Hawaii, I am requesting that you encourage the Governor to cancel the Special Session or vote "No" on the Same-Sex Marriage bill if the Special Session continues. The Same-Sex marriage bill that is being addressed should be properly vetted and discussed during a regular session. A rushed, special session is not pono and does not promote democracy. Why is Hawaii the only state that is having a Special Session on this issue? This issue should be properly discussed when all voices, including the people of Hawaii, can be heard. A Special Session is not enough time for legislators or for our Hawaii residents to discuss this critical issue that will affect families, businesses, health, economy, education and millions of concerned citizens in our state.

Please consider initiating a survey in your representative districts to receive input on this critical issue from your constituents. Please also consider impact & consequence studies of such a legislative bill on families, education, health, business, etc. Have these surveys or studies already been done in your districts since it is an issue that is making headline news? Many of my ohana and friends believe that traditional marriage between one man and one woman is a basic human and social institution for as long as we can remember and the foundation of the traditional nuclear family should not be undermined. This issue is of great concern to many families here in Hawaii and we have been studying what has been sadly happening to other states that have legalized same-sex marriage. I appeal to your wisdom and integrity in honoring and preserving our generational legacy and historical tradition of marriage between one man and one woman.

The people of Hawaii deserve an honest debate with astute clarity and understanding about the language of this hurried bill. The people of Hawaii have a right to know what it clearly states. Previous bills, like SB 232 and HB 1453 are nearly identical to bills passed in California and Connecticut which led to courts ultimately imposing same-sex "marriage" on those states. Proponents of the bill submitted legislation for "domestic partnerships" or "civil unions" that eventually concluded with same-sex "marriage". The previous SB 232 bill a couple of years ago stated, *"it is not the legislature's intent to revise the definition or eligibility requirements of marriage".* Yet, here we are with a rushed bill to push same-sex marriage on Hawaii.

In 1998, the people of Hawaii already voted that the marriage institution must be protected and remain between one man and one woman. We have spoken and this issue has already been settled by the people of Hawaii. To usurp the people's voice through the passage of a same-sex marriage bill is a travesty that our legislators will be accounted for. Please let the people of Hawaii decide on marriage and allow us to vote on it. Please respect democracy and DO NOT let the democratic process be circumvented with this special session.

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:13:13 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	charlene
Last Name:	petersen
Email:	charleighpetersen@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:12:57 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Erin
Last Name:	Nelson
Email:	mrs.erin.nelson@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:16:19 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Thaddeus
Last Name:	Albino
Email:	makana_33@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:16:50 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Earl
Last Name:	Miyamoto
Email:	miyamotoe@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: *****SPAM***** In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:26:07 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Lavern
Last Name:	Brown
Email:	Pueloz@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)
Lavern R Brown
Kahuku Hawaii, 96731

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:27:01 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Ben
Last Name:	Tano
Email:	dapigskins@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:28:07 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Marina
Last Name:	Brown
Email:	Pueloz@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)
Marina P. Brown
Kahuku Hawaii, 96731

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:28:41 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Winona
Last Name:	Fuller
Email:	nona_fuller@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:30:46 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Ashley
Last Name:	Furtado
Email:	Aklfurtado@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ashley Furtado
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:33:13 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Jordon
Last Name:	Furtado
Email:	jk.furtado@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:34:49 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Iolani
Last Name:	Kamauoha
Email:	iolanip@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

'Iolani Kamauoha
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:47:42 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Emberly
Last Name:	Valgardson
Email:	Emberly.valgardson@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Emberly Valgardson
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:49:27 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Ashton
Last Name:	Saifoloi
Email:	ashtonsaifoloi@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	This is a very sad and dangerous time in Hawaii. How can we be so wrong and be so weak in giving in to what we know and feel is wrong. Please, for the sake of my family and children, do not allow this evil to pass. Hawaiians have already lost their lands, the people of this now state cannot afford to lose their dignity and respect or God and laws that have already been established. Who are we to change that? In speaking with a same sex couple, the reason they are voting for is not because they want to get married but because they want eccentric change and "something new". We can't let This evil happen. Im a father and I don't want the world that allows My children to think that it's ok to be gay because It is not. Please understand that this will change so many things. It will be a dangerous time for many if this bill gets passed. Do not give in, please be strong and allow the people to vote. Thank you

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:53:27 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Jenny
Last Name:	Bertolucci
Email:	Jenny.bertolucci@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jennifer bertolucci
Honolulu, HI, 96822

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice-Chairman, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Nancy McGuckin

Date: October 25, 2013

RE: SB 1 Relating To Equal Rights

Good morning Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro, and members of the Senator Committee on Judiciary and Labor. My name is Nancy McGuckin and I am testifying in opposition to S.B. 1 Relating To Equal Rights.

The bill that is before you delete's provisions that the people of the State of Hawaii voted on a number of years ago, provisions which state that marriage is between a man and a woman. Removing such by this Legislative body, I believe, is a violation of the trust that we have you in as elected officials.

I ask you to respect our political process and to adhere to the vote we took as the people of Hawaii. I respectfully ask that you vote no on this measure.

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:55:06 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Ofa
Last Name:	Peloso
Email:	moanaaulii@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for listening!

'Ofa Peloso
155 Ke Ala Nohona Road #24C
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:58:49 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Lanea
Last Name:	Snow
Email:	laneasnow@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: Mark Wolfersberger
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: testimony for SB1 - relating to equal rights
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:02:37 PM
Attachments: Same-sex marriage bill response.docx

Aloha,

I would like to respectfully testify in person at the hearing on Monday, October 28th at 10:30am for SB1. I am submitting a summary of my testimony below (also attached).

Mark Wolfersberger
Phone: 808-232-2303
Cell: 808-233-8399

Submitted Testimony

Date: 25 October, 2013
To: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Measure: SB 1 – Relating to equal rights
Hearing: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30am
From: Mark Wolfersberger

I OPPOSE bill SB1 – Relating to Equal Rights for the following four reasons:

First, gay marriage is a serious issue that has the potential to redefine the fabric of our society. Thus, it deserves serious thought and input from all areas of our society here in Hawaii. By calling a special session, the governor is attempting to bypass the serious debate that this issue deserves. Let's not legislate by edict from the governor. Rather, let's legislate from the will of the people.

Second, because of the gravity of this issue, it should be decided by the people. In 1998, the people of Hawaii demonstrated their desire to carefully consider this issue by passing Constitutional Amendment 2. This amendment paved the way for the issue of same-sex marriage to be debated and decided by the legislature, and by extension, the people of Hawaii rather than the courts of Hawaii (e.g. *Baehr v. Lewin*, 1993). The governor's hasty introduction of Bill SB1 – Relating to Equal Rights and the special session that he has called is an affront to Hawaii voters and the trust that the voters demonstrated in the Hawaii State Legislature by passing Constitutional Amendment 2. Again, let's not legislate by edict from the governor.

Third, as clearly stated in the bill's introduction, Bill SB1 was introduced as a bandwagon reaction to the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that declared portions of the federal *Defense of Marriage Act* unconstitutional. This court decision has relevance in states that have already passed laws for gay marriage: it is not relevant in states that have not passed such laws. Until the legislature and people of Hawaii debate this issue and make a decision, the U.S. Supreme Court decision has no impact on Hawaii. Let's not allow distant federal

courts to impact serious local decisions in our state. Again, let's allow the people of Hawaii to have a proper debate of the issues and make a determination.

Finally, I have heard a number of people referring to the gay marriage as a civil rights issue similar to slavery and women's suffrage. I hope none of our legislators believe in these misguided comparisons. During slavery, African-Americans were bought and sold as a man's property. This was an issue of human trafficking and is morally reprehensible. Gay marriage is not an issue of gays being bought and sold as another man's property. Women's suffrage was an issue of fair representation in government. Gays have not been denied the right to vote. In stark contrast to slavery and women's suffrage, the issue of gay marriage is a question of redefining families, which are the most basic unit of our society. This potential redefinition could have a far-reaching impact that goes well beyond the federal financial benefits that the bill's introduction uses as a rationale.

In conclusion, this issue deserves serious consideration by the state legislature and people. Please vote "NO" and give our state the time that it needs on this issue.

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:19:53 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Todd
Last Name:	Poliahu
Email:	Toddandcorie@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Todd Poliahu
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Marsha Krieger

24 Makani Circle• Hilo, Hawaii 96720• Phone: 8083451869 •
E-Mail: marshk59@gmail.com

Date: Oct. 28, 2013

Karl Rhoads
Chair
Judiciary Committee
Subject: For In Person Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees;

As a concerned citizen of the state of Hawaii, I am submitting my testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage.

I fervently oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process and does not give voice to all the people of Hawaii. This bill instead addresses just a small special interest group. Especially now that the governor has added two more items to the agenda (an appropriation for Hawaii Health Systems and Funding of Collective Bargaining agreements achieved with UPW Unit 10 and HGEA Unit 13) I question how you can effectively and justly give the focused attention to this issue that Governor Abercrombie used as a 'motivation' to call the special session.

Also, we the people of Hawaii do not have sufficient input into this process. Because there can be no amendments to the bill any concerns raised in testimony cannot be adequately addressed nor does the short time allotted for the session allow you the legislature to equitably deal with these concerns. Therefore, by passing the bill under these circumstances, the legislature will be making a mockery of the democratic process.

I oppose this bill because on page 6 starting on line 4, the definition of church exemptions are too weak to guarantee our first amendment rights to the free exercise of religion. Many churches serve the community by allowing the usage of facilities for AA groups, parenting and/or marriage classes and sports and exercise classes that are open to the public. The language in SB1 is not strong enough to protect the churches from lawsuits or other challenges.

I oppose this bill because I have serious concerns and questions regarding page 15 beginning at line 1 – 9. This section allows couples that do not live in Hawaii and are not taxpayers to pursue an action for annulment, divorce or separation in our state. I have serious and valid concerns about the impact this will have on our already weak economy.

On page 12 beginning at line 15 572C-2 states that 'the legislature finds that the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage.....as one man and one woman. This was only two years ago. We have not voted nor had town hall meetings to find out if this has changed. In 1998, the people only voted to allow the 'legislature to have the power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples' because we had no other choice. To not have accepted the poorly worded measure would have left the decision to our state judiciary, which had the Baehr v, Miike case pending. Voting to grant the power into the legislatures hands in 1998 was the lesser of two evils. A 'yes' vote in the special session is a 'no' vote to democracy because you are clearly not listening to the voices of the people of Hawaii, whom you have been elected to represent.

These are just a few of the concerns I have about you voting into law possibly the most controversial issue of our time. The short time allowed for the special session and the extra issues that the governor has added prevents you the representatives

of this great state from justly and adequately addressing the concerns to the people of the state of Hawaii. I request that you vote no or table this issue and bring it to a vote of the people

Sincerely,

Marsha M. Krieger

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:31:59 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	saxon
Last Name:	sawai
Email:	saxon.hwd@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:32:37 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Misitana
Last Name:	Uyema
Email:	tonga808@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Misitana Uyema
Honolulu, HI 86821

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing: Monday, October 28, 2013
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Place: Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

I am John Strecker, I am 7 years old and I live in Waipahu.

I would like to vote no to same-sex marriage.

Why would a woman and a woman, and a man and a man be together, when they can not even have children?

Why would a child want to be in a home with a man and man, and a woman and woman? That is not marriage.

Thank you for letting me share my testimony.

Thank you for everything that you do for us, the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

John Strecker

Glenn Lung

1012 9th Ave.

Honolulu, HI 96816

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair

Senate Judiciary and labor Committee

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania St.

Honolulu, HI 95813

Re: In **Opposition** to SB 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and labor,

I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

I am opposed to SB 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

1. It re-defines the most core institution of society, Marriage.
2. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members, from lawsuits.
3. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and woman in the Hawaii constitution.
4. It will not be referred to other appropriate legislative committees who are responsible to the citizens of Hawaii to vet legislation.

I urge you to vote **NO** on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Glenn Lung

Glenn Lung

Hawaii Voter

Glenn Lung

1012 9th Ave.

Honolulu, HI 96816

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Senate Judiciary and labor Committee

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania St.

Honolulu, HI 95813

Re: In **Opposition** to SB 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and labor,

I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

I am opposed to SB 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

1. It re-defines the most core institution of society, Marriage.
2. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members, from lawsuits.
3. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and woman in the Hawaii constitution.
4. It will not be referred to other appropriate legislative committees who are responsible to the citizens of Hawaii to vet legislation.

I urge you to vote **NO** on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Glenn Lung

Glenn Lung

Hawaii Voter

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:41:10 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Prince Ely
Last Name:	Taito
Email:	Taitoprince@hotmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Prince Ely D. Taito)
(Waipahu, Hi 96797)

I feel that as a parent it is right to show and teach our children what we was taught in the bible. I don't have any right to judge gay marriage and homo sexuality but as a parent I wouldn't want that around my children. Please take consideration on real parents mothers n fathers that are trying to raise their children right and bring them up right. Thank you for you time.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1

TO: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Yautat Jackie Shen
Cell Phone 741-2937

DATE OF HEARING: Monday 10-28-13

POSITION: Oppose SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights

I am testifying IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1.

The people of Hawaii has already made their desire known during the Civil Union debate.

The majority of the people in Hawaii DO NOT WANT TO LEGALIZE SAME SEX MARRIAGE.

It is AGAINST THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY OF OUR PEOPLE, who are YOUR CONSTITUENTS.

Let the people decide. PLEASE VOTE NO ON SB 1.

Thank you.

Yautat Jackie Shen
10-25-13

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:42:09 AM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Robert
Last Name:	Ikuwa
Email:	lononuiakea@msn.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

He nonoi haahaa keia e hookuu I ke akea e koho paloka I keia mea ma waena o kakou ma Hawaii nei.

O au iho no,

Robert L. Ikuwa
P.O. Box 5166
Kailua Kona, Hawaii 96745
(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

Testimony
Senate Bill No. 1

My name is James Stern and I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bill No. 1.
I want to begin by saying that I appreciate and value the opportunity to express my views freely and openly with no fear of reprisal or retaliation. Further, all of my comments are made with genuine respect for all citizens of Hawaii regardless of their life-style choices or views on the issue at hand.

As the senior pastor of Kapahulu Bible Church, I am deeply concerned about the long-term effects this bill will have on the families both within my own church membership and within this community which I have become attached to over the past twelve years.

First, I am concerned about the kinds of educational influences that the passage of this bill will invite into the classrooms of our public schools. As a local pastor I am acutely aware of the obligatory restrictions the church has when it comes to propagating our beliefs in the public schools. I respect those obligations not to use the pubic arena to teach my religious views. My concern is that after the passage of this bill, the door will be opened to allow those who oppose my religious views to propagate their teachings and influence the next generation in ways that are contrary to the values of many if not most of the citizens of the great state. (Many people, including some of you who have been elected to represent us, have admitted that while they do not personally support the concept of same sex marriage, that they will support this bill for political reasons.) What safe-guards will be put in place to ensure that the state will not replace parents as the primary influencers of their children?

Second, I am concerned about the loss of religious freedoms guaranteed by the US Constitution that seems likely to occur if the bill is passed. What legal measures will be put in place by our state legislatures to ensure that all citizens of Hawaii will be treated equally when it comes to the protection of our First Amendment rights? Will our religious freedoms be forced to make way for the "civil rights" of a select group (ie. their right not be discriminated against)? Will business men and women have the right to exercise their religious convictions in the way they conduct their business affairs? Will parents have the right to raise their children according to the convictions dictated by their faith? Will pastors and teachers of the Christian faith have the right to voice their beliefs in the public sector? All of these questions need to be carefully addressed before this so-called "bill relating to equal rights" is passed.

In summation I would urge each senator and state representative to discover and carefully consider the long-term impacts such laws are having on other states and countries after passing such a law before making same sex marriage the law in the State of Hawaii. Further I urge these bodies to hand over this decision to the people of the State of Hawaii by allowing for a public referendum on this issue. Thank you again for the privilege of expressing my views.

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:47:55 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Nate
Last Name:	Anderson
Email:	Nateanderson123@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:51:03 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Kalani
Last Name:	Mahi
Email:	kmahi63@hawaii.rr.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kalani Mahi
Kula, HI 96790

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: *****SPAM***** I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:53:00 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Ida
Last Name:	Kahoalii
Email:	lutherk59@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ida Kahoalii
Waimanalo, HI 96795

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:52:49 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Luther
Last Name:	Kahoalii
Email:	lutherk59@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Luther Kahoalii
Waimanalo, HI 96795

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:57:24 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Arley
Last Name:	Enesa
Email:	nacharz@byuh.edu
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Arley Enesa
54-289 Kawaipuna Place
Hau'ula HI, 96717

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:07:30 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Irene
Last Name:	Lesuma
Email:	lesumai@byuh.edu
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Irene L. Lesuma
Laie, Hawaii. 96762

TO: The Legislators of the 2013 Hawai'i Legislature

FROM: Ethel P. Goods

SUBJECT: S.B. No. 1 – Hawai'i Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am mother of five adult children, four beautiful daughters and my one and only handsome son, who incidentally is gay. As a mother and a Christian I am disappointed in his choice of the lifestyle he has chosen, but, I pray, love and support him and his partner in whatever they pursue in life, with one exception, **I do not and will not support** the above referenced subject matter or as many people refer to as the "same sex marriage bill."

If you are an advocate of "equal rights under the law," and there are many, are equal rights for blacks, women, voting, really working? This testimony and many similar testimonies will not sway you from supporting S.B. No1., therefore, vote not as an advocate of equal rights, but, vote your moral conscience and your values.

Peace and Blessings!

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:20:09 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Hokulani
Last Name:	Shattuck
Email:	Kalanikau07@me.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:23:34 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Shirley
Last Name:	Tovey
Email:	kanahaukura@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Shirley Tovey
Laie, HI 96762

From: Faredah Ward
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:24:17 PM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S.Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Date: October 25, 2013

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposed to this bill. This Same Sex Marriage Bill has been hastily written for such an important, wide ranging effect to our society. The people of Hawaii should be able to have a say and be able to vote for or against this bill. Living in a democratic society, every citizen should be allowed and given the opportunity to vote on a very important issue that will shift the way society thinks and it's attitude toward the institution of marriage.

Also, by giving a right to one group this bill takes the right of our freedom of religion away from another group. The legislature should uphold the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, not blatently disregard it and by doing so create a great divide among us.

Let us bring this issue during the regular legislative session where debate and thorough analysis can be made. It is crucial that voters be allowed to have their say. We are a democracy so let's show by our actions that we are a free people who can vote their belief and conscience.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify

Faredah Ward

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:24:36 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Kieiki
Last Name:	Pouha
Email:	imua4life@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kieiki Po'uha
56-150 Leleuli Place Kahuku, HI 96731

To: Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I, Jaime McGuire, first and foremost oppose this Special Session. I also fervently oppose this bill.

First, this bill elevates the state Public Accommodation Act above an individual's Constitutional First Amendment Right, which means it is poor legislation. I did not elect Representatives, Senators and a Governor to write and pass poor legislation.

Secondly, this poor legislation cannot be fixed because our Governor has insisted on a Special Session that does not allow amendments. This will affect small business owners, judges, and even the "exempted" religious organizations that allow the general public to use their facilities.

Third, we are imposing this bill on an enormous population, the state of Hawaii, to satisfy 0.02% of our current population. I suggest a much more simple approach; amend Civil Unions legislation so that civil unions receive federal benefits. By doing this you serve the 0.02% of the population without changing the definition of marriage for the other 99.98%. However, you can't consider my recommendation because this special session is rushed and doesn't allow amendments and only allows for limited hearings.

Lastly, you are stomping out my voice. In 1998, we the people told you to reserve marriage between one man and one woman. You ignored us and did not act as we requested. Again this week, this special session ignores us by limiting the days our voice can be heard. The most controversial and important debate in 15 years and our own elected officials don't want to hear our voice and are choosing to silence it by allowing 6 working days of effort.

I will be there in person to protest this bill. I want my chance for testimony. Please make sure there is enough time for it. Turning people away who want to testify will be a big statement. And I for one will work hard during the next voting cycle to make sure that I have Senators and Reps who will respect the role of democracy and will fight to hear the voice of the people.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaime McGuire
91-332 Hoalauna Place
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:34:02 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Amy
Last Name:	Manumaleuna
Email:	Merialina@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:36:59 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Carol
Last Name:	Yuen
Email:	imallheart@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my OPPOSITION to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I believe this bill is in violation of the First Amendment where we have the right to have the freedom of religion. There needs to be a separation of church and state. The state, or government, should not have the rights to make laws that dictate what religions and churches should and should not do. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during

the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Carol Yuen
Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:37:07 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Lance
Last Name:	Pagador
Email:	pagadorl@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lance Pagador
Kahuku, Hi 96731

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:44:06 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Meleane
Last Name:	Unga
Email:	meleane.unga@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Meleane Unga
(Hauula, HI, 96717)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:44:56 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Sione
Last Name:	Lavulavu
Email:	stlavulavu@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: *****SPAM***** I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:46:09 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Ivanelle
Last Name:	Kahalepuna
Email:	kahalei@byuh.edu
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ivanelle Kahalepuna
(Kahuku, Hawaii 96731)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: *****SPAM***** I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:45:32 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Samantha
Last Name:	Unga
Email:	nini0150@hotmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:47:52 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Sela
Last Name:	Unga
Email:	selaunga@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:50:09 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Seini
Last Name:	Unga
Email:	eenie0150@hotmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Seini Unga
Hauula, HI 96717

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:52:26 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Justyn
Last Name:	Kaka
Email:	jtkaka@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: *****SPAM***** I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:51:52 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Ofeina
Last Name:	Unga
Email:	unga3@go.byuh.edu
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ofeina Unga Jr.
Hauula, HI96717

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:53:43 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	David
Last Name:	Buckner
Email:	david.buckner9855@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

Dr. Paul W. Y. Kurihara
3930 Gail Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because this Bill is deficient of proper wording that would protect my religious rights and could directly affect my business liabilities in response to the new same sex law being proposed. Furthermore, you have not weighted or thought through other legal ramifications that would affect other areas unassociated with religious rights. First, Native Hawaiian rights. This bill extends rights that would transfer native Hawaiian ethnicity to non-Native Hawaiian individual.

Second, it provides that same-sex couples married in the state, but who do not live in Hawaii, the right to return to Hawaii courts for divorce, annulment and separation proceedings. Hawaii taxpayers will be paying for these costs.

Please do not be bullied or pressured by the Gay rights minority who are not considering the whole picture, but only their personal agenda. Hawaii citizens are the most tolerant and loving people of all the states in the union. This bill has nothing to do with equal rights, but is about taking away constitutional rights at great cost to our society.

Please vote NO or move to consider the bill in other committees. Give the public the opportunity to inform lawmakers on the short-term and long-term impact.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul W.Y. Kurihara.

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:59:19 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Kaliki
Last Name:	Unga
Email:	kaliki.unga@byuh.edu
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kaliki Unga
Hauula, HI 96717

From: William H Lawson
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Please do not adopt same-gender marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:02:17 PM

Dear Senators and Representatives:

There is absolutely no legitimate reason to rush into homosexual marriage in Hawaii. Governor Abercrombie claims that a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision made it necessary. This claim is simply false. No other state is rushing to adopt same-gender marriage.

Instead of responding to a legal necessity, the actual reason for this special session appears to be to circumvent the will of the people of Hawaii on same-sex marriage as quickly and as quietly as possible. Recall that the electorate of Hawaii recently voted to give the legislature the power to overturn same-gender marriage by a 70%-30% margin. Recall that the House didn't have the two-thirds vote necessary to call a special session to expedite this bill - so Governor Abercrombie convened a special session instead. By using this special session, the legislature won't have to hold all of the usual regular hearings and conferences, this bill won't be processed through committees like a normal piece of legislation with numerous opportunities to address defects in the bill, and the bill will avoid the in-depth and lengthy public discussions that it deserves. There is nothing about this process that is designed to "represent the people of Hawaii". Instead a temporary - and not representative - handful of elected politicians seek to impose their minority position on the people of Hawaii using backroom tactics and parliamentary procedures. Is it any wonder that most voters feel disenfranchised?

The "gay rights" movement claims to be a civil rights movement. It is not. There is no other civil right movement based upon how one chooses to act. This is a unique movement - but it is not a civil rights movement. Even the Martin Luther King family and the US Supreme Court have so stated. What one chooses to do in private should be a private matter. All citizens have protections for private sexual conduct in their own homes. The current movement is not about the right to be a homosexual. The goals of this movement are now about imposing acceptance of the "gay rights" agenda on others - against their will. This bill is not about freedom - but instead it is about being an intolerant bully. This bill seeks to redefine a word that has had a common English meaning for centuries and forcing others to accept the change and the fallout which it will bring. This bill is about changing our schools and our communities and legislating what people are allowed to think.

The rights and privileges of being in a traditional marriage were extended to homosexual couples in Hawaii years ago. So this bill is not about the rights or privileges of homosexuals. Instead, this bill is about forcing all people in the State of Hawaii to call non-traditional homosexual marriages by the term "marriage" - even though many do not believe that such unions are marriage. Long before any U.S. state ever got involved in any marriages (or even existed), marriage was a religious ceremony. For many (and probably most), religious belief defines marriage. The secular government's recent involvement in marriages (primarily for health reasons) does not suddenly give the State the power to redefine marriage nor to tell millions of religious followers that they must change their views.

Only a few short years ago, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of psychiatry defined homosexuality as a mental illness. Today the courts allow same-sex couples to adopt and to raise families. In the eyes of some, we have "come so far". In the eyes of many others, we have been modifying society itself with no understanding of where this is taking us, nor what the harvest will be. Studies show that AIDS, STDs and a number of injuries and diseases are greatly increased in the homosexual population. Children who are raised by two cohabitating homosexuals face increased greatly risks of depression, suicide and promiscuity. Why are we rushing down a path when we don't even know where it leads?

I urge you please to vote NO on the current bill and on any other bill to mandate that homosexual unions are marriages in Hawaii. Please do not pass legislation which imposes the religious viewpoint of a small minority of people on all of the people of Hawaii.

Aloha,

Bill Lawson

William H. Lawson, Attorney at Law
Century Square
1188 Bishop Street, Suite 2902
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone (808) 528-2525
Email: WHL@hawaii.rr.com

Come visit our website at:
http://www.AccidentLawyerHawaii.com

Please note that the lawson@aloha.com email address is going to unavailable starting in April 2013 and thereafter. Please use the WHL@hawaii.rr.com email address instead starting immediately.

Confidentiality Notice

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From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:04:00 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Mele
Last Name:	Tilini
Email:	mtilini5@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mele Tilini
Hau'ula, Hawai'i, 96717

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:14:13 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Jesse
Last Name:	Oliva
Email:	joliva1003@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jesse Oliva

Laie, Hawaii 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:15:06 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	LaVerne
Last Name:	Puhi
Email:	lavernepuhi@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LaVerne Puhi
54-268 Kawaihemo Place
Hauula, Hawaii 96717

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:18:33 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Ashley
Last Name:	Makahilahila
Email:	amakahilahila07@punahou.edu
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:20:06 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Sione
Last Name:	Pasi
Email:	sionepasi@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sione F.T. Pasi
Hauula, HI 96717

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:21:42 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Connie
Last Name:	Kurohara
Email:	connie@creativeartshawaii.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Connie Kurohara
Hilo, HI 96720

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:24:09 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Katrine
Last Name:	Konanui
Email:	katkonan@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: Greg Reuel
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Vote NO on senate Bill 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:26:26 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Greg Reuel, 59-175 Kamehameha and I am testifying for myself on Senate Bill 1. I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bill 1 and asked you to vote NO to the measure for these reasons:

There are a number of reasons that this bill should be voted down:

1. It is being done without a vote of the people.
2. God ordained marriage as the union of one man and one woman, this definition that will be taken out of current Hawaiian law is not a legislative decision.
3. There are still ambiguities in Senate Bill #1 as to what public accommodations are exempt from the bill.
4. No government bill should enforce restrictions on religious liberties and Senate Bill #1 is a shadow of that happening to the people of Hawaii.
5. Churches, businesses and schools should not be forced to teach same sex equality.

I hope you will seriously consider the aforementioned concerns. These matters are of great concern to the families and communities of Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration of my opinion.

Please vote NO on Senate Bill 1

Thanks you,

Gregory C. Reuel

59-178 Kamehameha Hwy. C-1

808-638-5511

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:27:20 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Vaipuna
Last Name:	Iafeta
Email:	Nuiandvai@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Vaipuna Iafeta
Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:28:58 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Keleise
Last Name:	Reid
Email:	keleisereid@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Keleise Reid
Laie, HI, 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:29:45 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Hannah
Last Name:	Packard
Email:	packha18@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Hannah Packard)
(Laie, Hawaii 96762)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:29:39 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Martha
Last Name:	Christensen
Email:	marthach@byuh.edu
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. Marriage should be between a man and a women. Children need to be taught and nurtured by a mother and a father. Families are the most important thing in this world. To allow same sex marriage would damage Hawaiis' families immensely. Martha Christensen Laie, Hawaii 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:31:14 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Ji Hwan
Last Name:	Suh
Email:	jsuh7089@go.byuh.edu
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:31:13 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Renon
Last Name:	Moors
Email:	ojmoors@hotmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:33:04 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Dali
Last Name:	Hungerford
Email:	hidali99@hotmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Greg Hungerford
Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:32:33 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Joenee
Last Name:	Briones
Email:	joencatabrio@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:33:51 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Melanie
Last Name:	Manutai
Email:	mel_manutai@hotmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Ji Hwan Suh)
(Laie HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:35:00 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Greg
Last Name:	Hungerford
Email:	hungerfordgreg@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:36:12 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Mandy
Last Name:	Leuluai
Email:	leuluaim@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mandy Leuluai
Laie, HI 96762

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Greg Reuel, 59-175 Kamehameha and I am testifying for myself on Senate Bill 1. I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bill 1 and asked you to vote NO to the measure for these reasons:

There are a number of reasons that this bill should be voted down:

1. It is being done without a vote of the people.
2. God ordained marriage as the union of one man and one woman, this definition that will be taken out of current Hawaiian law is not a legislative decision.
3. There are still ambiguities in Senate Bill #1 as to what public accommodations are exempt from the bill.
4. No government bill should enforce restrictions on religious liberties and Senate Bill #1 is a shadow of that happening to the people of Hawaii.
5. Churches, businesses and schools should not be forced to teach same sex equality.

I hope you will seriously consider the aforementioned concerns. These matters are of great concern to the families and communities of Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration of my opinion.

Please vote NO on Senate Bill 1

Thanks you,

Gregory C. Reuel

59-178 Kamehameha Hwy. C-1

808-638-5511

(My name and address have been included in case you need to contact me)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:36:53 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	David
Last Name:	DeCleene
Email:	davedecleene@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

David DeCleene
155 Ainalako Rd, Hilo, HI 96720

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:37:02 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Devon
Last Name:	Leuluai
Email:	leuluairl@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Devon Leuluai
Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:38:07 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	John
Last Name:	Fisihetau
Email:	jdfisihet@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

John Fisihetau
Laie, Hawaii, 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:39:11 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	GenedelLynn
Last Name:	GLory
Email:	lildu92@go.byuh.edu
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From:	Jian Li
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 12:39:17 PM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any same-sex marriage issue. Same-sex marriage is not a civil right. On 30 November 1998, two couples involved in Quilter v Attorney-General sued New Zealand before the United Nations Human Rights Committee claiming that the country's ban on same-sex marriage violated the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Committee rejected the case on 17 July 2002 and commented that ‘reading of article 23, paragraph 2, is consistent with the travaux préparatoires of the Covenant. Article 23 was drawn directly from article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides, in the only gender-specific reference in the Declaration, to the right of “[m]en and women … to marry”. The travaux préparatoires of article 23 also contain repeated references to “husband and wife”. Such an interpretation is also confirmed by respected academic commentary, and by decisions of the European Court of Human Rights which have repeatedly found that the equivalent provision of the European Convention does not extend to homosexual couples.’ No court (including the United States Supreme Court) has ever said that same-sex marriage is civil right. Let the People Decide on Marriage. It is my opinion that the issue of same-sex marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same-sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people.

Sincerely,
Jian Lee

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:41:29 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Alan
Last Name:	Akina
Email:	alanakina@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: As a Husband, Father of 5 beautiful children, Business Owner and proud Native Hawaiian. I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. Do not get me wrong, I love all people and have no problem with equality for all. But I do have problems with it comes to changing God's law of marriage between a man and a woman. I also am concerned about the serious lack of protection of my religious freedoms that I feel are being stripped away from me, my family and all people of religion in our State. I am urging the legislature to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage. One week with only a handful of people deciding on this very personal matter is not enough time. This bill needs time for all people to have a say in the direction of our rights. Mahalo for this opportunity to share my thoughts,

Alan Akina
Kahuku Resident
96731

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: *****SPAM***** I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:41:44 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Tara
Last Name:	Smith
Email:	tara.fayes@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

Charlene Dawn Akana
94-440 Pawa Way
Millilani, Hi 96789

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it fails to protect church-affiliated organizations, Universities, hospitals etc. from lawsuits. It also, denies individual citizens their First amendments right of freedom of religion.

Please vote NO or move to consider the bill in other committees. Give the public the opportunity to inform lawmakers on the short-term and long-term impact.

Since

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: kapolei9187@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)*
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:51:17 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
patricia souza	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:58:44 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Aki
Last Name:	Yamamoto
Email:	aki-nip@hotmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Yaki Yamamoto
Laie, Hawaii 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:59:03 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Esther
Last Name:	Macy
Email:	esther.macy@byuh.edu
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Esther Macy
Laie, Hawaii 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:58:43 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Jay
Last Name:	Yung
Email:	nfsjay1020@hotmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jay Yung
Laie, Hawaii 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:58:33 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Jonah-Kuhio
Last Name:	Kaauwai
Email:	jonah.Kaauwai@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Jonah Ka'auwai)
(Kailua Hi, 96734)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:58:39 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Justin
Last Name:	Kolilis
Email:	kolilis11@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:58:37 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Michelle
Last Name:	Cannon
Email:	cannonaf@msn.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:58:34 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Ming
Last Name:	Williams
Email:	ming06@go.byuh.edu
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:58:38 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Robin
Last Name:	Beck
Email:	rbeck99@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Robin Beck
POBOx 10064
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:58:45 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Spencer
Last Name:	Cannon
Email:	cannonaf@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:58:44 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Trent
Last Name:	Pulido
Email:	trentpulido@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Trent Pulido
55-550 Naniloa Loop
Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:58:43 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Wachira
Last Name:	Watanawongworakula
Email:	wwachira@go.byuh.edu
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Wachira Watanawongworakula
Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:58:38 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Youngwon
Last Name:	Kang
Email:	youngwon@go.byuh.edu
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Youngwon Kang)
(Laie Hawaii 96762)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:03:01 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	xueying
Last Name:	huang
Email:	angelwong707@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Xueying Huang)
(Laie, Hawaii 96762)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: *****SPAM***** I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:04:08 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Melba
Last Name:	Quiocho
Email:	melbamae137@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Melba Quiocho
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:05:47 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Darryl
Last Name:	Quiocho
Email:	kawaiola2@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Darryl Quiocho
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:05:40 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Esther
Last Name:	Cabeza
Email:	eccctr@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Esther Cabeza)
(Laie, Hi, 96762)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:08:06 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Emilia
Last Name:	Anicas
Email:	melbamae137@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Emilia Anicas
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:08:16 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Kenneth
Last Name:	Lam
Email:	kwkennethlam@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kenneth Lam
Laie, Hawaii, 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:10:32 PM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Carolynne
Last Name:	Nakamura
Email:	cnaka2004@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:13:18 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Ariel
Last Name:	Pulicar
Email:	air.baire@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
Ariel Pullicar
(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:13:11 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Carston
Last Name:	Feigleson
Email:	cfeigleson@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Carston Feigleson
Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Defense of Traditional Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:12:34 PM

I am are in Defense of Traditional Marriage and strongly oppose Bill SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Haililani
Last Name:	Pokipala
Email:	Hpokipal@hawaii.edu
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:12:37 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Moses
Last Name:	Feinga
Email:	moses.feinga@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:13:23 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Nancy
Last Name:	Wassman
Email:	nwassman@hawaii.rr.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Nancy Wassman
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:14:04 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Katherine
Last Name:	Jeffrey
Email:	mermaidprincesspupule@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Support of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my support to Bill SB1. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which should not interfere with the rights for anyone to enter into the legal contract of marriage with another single adult. I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. Please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process in this special session. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Katherine Jeffrey Hilo, HI 96720

From: Charles kj Amsterdam
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Fw: Same-Sex Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:14:09 PM

This is the testimony to be presented at the hearing regarding Same-Sex Marriage by
C. Kaui Jochanan Amsterdam on Monday, Oct., 28, 2013.
Notice also has been sent
verifying that the testimony also will be provided by him in person before the hearing.
Mahalo and Shaloha.

Dear Officer of The Legislature of Hawaii:

Herein is vital knowledge, my request, and my testimony to you.

Mahalo and Shaloha (Shalom and Aloha),

Kaui Jochanan Amsterdam

n Saturday, October 19, 2013 1:37 PM, Charles kj Amsterdam <shaloha1@yahoo.com> wrote:

Same-Sex Marriage's Impact On All Of Hawaii's People

Like most people, my background influences my perspective. Being a Hawaiian Jew, I address the same-sex marriage issue.

First, as part of my Hawaiian heritage's motto, Ua Mau Ka Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono, The life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness, emphasizes that behavior be based on righteous, moral, ethical behavior, values, and principles. Such a sense of righteousness goes beyond the right of Hawaiian self-governance within the motto's historical context and is more inclusive as exemplified in the value of Aloha. Such moral behavior provides that the land and life of the people living on the land will be protected and preserved. Such benefits

also are divine and come from G-d. On the other hand, disregarding or dismissing the motto emphasizing moral action or living will result in the withdrawal or elimination of divine protection and preservation of the land and life of people in Hawaii through prevailing danger and destruction. Such danger includes occurances such as hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, terrorism, militarism, economic hardship, volcanic eruptions, natural disasters, pestilence, etc. In explaining such dangers, I do so with "Aloha" toward all our human ohana and without malice just as I would simply explain the dangerous impact of someone sticking their hand into flowing lava. Therefore, avoiding such danger and enjoying protection and preservation of the land and life of Hawaii's people simply require righteous, moral, and ethical behavior and living of the people of Hawaii.

Secondly, while my Hawaiian heritage emphasizes righteous, moral, and ethical values, behavior, and living, my Jew(ish) heritage clarifies what is and is not morality and righteousness as provided by such sources as prophets, scriptures, inspired sacred writings, reasoning, and revelations from G-d. Such clarification is included by Christians and numerous other entities. Non-righteous behavior included certain relations such as same-sex or gender sexual relations, which is associated with same-sex marriage. While other non-righteous behavior includes dishonesty, corruption, domestic violence, murder, prostitution, physical and mental abuse, etc., same-sex marriage is central and is like the straw that breaks the camel's back. Furthermore, in this situation other supporting factors include that the current Act is unfair and undermines Democracy and the People of Hawaii's choice of preserving the tradition of marriage of a union of one man and one woman as seen in Chapter 572 Marriage, section S572C-2, which the current Act deletes and forces such Hawaii voters to be subjected to same-sex marriage dangers, that the Constitution's protection of religious freedom and the exercise of moral and ethical values predominates over the requirement of equal protection under the Law due to the behavior of same-sex marriage being of a non-moral or non-righteous standard of conduct, and that exemptions for clergy from performing same-sex marriages insufficiently and without impact omits congregants and church values. It's like exempting particular clergy from performing same-sex marriages on the Titanic and dismissing the dangerous Titanic situation, which is analagous to the destructive same-sex marriage situation in Hawaii.

Thirdly, inasmuch as being identified as non-righteous, same-sex marriage violates the moral values expressed in Hawaii's motto and imposes devastating danger on the Land and Life of Hawaii's People. It is an unavoidable righteous, moral value issue, which, as such, if dismissed, will reap Catastrophe and, if honored, will "Perpetuate the Life of the Land".

Shaloha (Shalom and Aloha),
Kaui Jochanan Amsterdam
Leader
Kanaka Maoli Jew

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:13:39 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Norman
Last Name:	Wassman
Email:	nwassman@hawaii.rr.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Norman Wassman III
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:17:10 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Krystal
Last Name:	Gonzalez
Email:	krysg7@go.byuh.edu
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Krystal Gonzalez
Laie, HI, 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: *****SPAM***** I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:17:40 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	lisa
Last Name:	saplan
Email:	moisaplan@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lisa Saplan
Keaau, HI, 96749

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:18:18 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Richarle
Last Name:	Balisi
Email:	rpab86@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
	Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:
	I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.
	I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.
	This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:17:30 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Theone
Last Name:	Taala
Email:	taala.theone2@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
	Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:
	I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.
	I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.
	This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Theone A. Taala
Laie, Hawaii 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:18:57 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Trenton
Last Name:	Rehak
Email:	trehak13@GMAIL.COM
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
	Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:
	I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.
	I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.
	This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Trenton Rehak
Laie, HI, 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:20:50 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Casey
Last Name:	Akana
Email:	caseyakana@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Casey Akana
Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:27:17 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Leimomi
Last Name:	Weffer
Email:	willingohana@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:28:33 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Anastasia
Last Name:	Scott
Email:	anastasia.scott@live.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

Carolyn Yano
1550 Wilder Avenue #A910
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it denies individual citizens and business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion and fails to protect clergy members from lawsuits.

It is also highly disturbing to me that the homosexual lifestyle will be taught to children in our schools.

Please vote NO on S.B.1 to stop the persecution of those who hold traditional Christian values.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Yano
Hawaii Voter

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:28:54 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Lena
Last Name:	Tyau
Email:	lilomilo119@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lena Tyau
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:29:34 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Hope
Last Name:	Braceros
Email:	Yellowpaddler808@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hope Braceros
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:29:43 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Ka'ano'i
Last Name:	Walk
Email:	kwalk@hawaii.edu
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:29:47 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	shaquille
Last Name:	byrnes
Email:	sbyrnes@go.byuh.edu
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
Shaquille Bynes
Laie, HI, 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:29:43 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Warren
Last Name:	Tyau
Email:	warren.tyau@hawaiiantel.net
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Warren Tyau
Kapolei, HI 96707

Nick Akana
94-440 Pawa Way
Millilani, Hi 96789

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it fails to protect church-affiliated organizations, Universities, hospitals etc. from lawsuits. It also, denies individual citizens their First amendments right of freedom of religion.

Please vote NO or move to consider the bill in other committees. Give the public the opportunity to inform lawmakers on the short-term and long-term impact.

Sincerely,
Nick Akana

Trenson Akana
91-1225 kamaaha ave.# 403
Kapolei, Hi 96707

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, it is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively.

Please vote NO or move to consider the bill in other committees. Give the public the opportunity to inform lawmakers on the short-term and long-term impact.

Sincerely,
Trenson Akana

Taylor Akana
91-1225 kamaaha ave.# 403
Kapolei, Hi 96707

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

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Please vote NO or move to consider the bill in other committees. Give the public the opportunity to inform lawmakers on the short-term and long-term impact.

Sincerely,
Taylor Akana

From: Haunani
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Opposition HB NO 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:50:01 PM

I am Haunani K. Jones, I represent my 5 keiki, my kane and ‘ohana from Waihe’e,‘Oahu. I am testifying in regards to SB NO 1 and let it be documented that I personally oppose this bill and any fraction thereof. I am taking this stance because the current wording/rights of this Bill would severely damage my church and many other churches-We would have to shut down. Please do not violate our rights, guaranteed by the first amendment, in the name of equality.

I come with an open heart and soul as I know this Bill would do more damage than good to the few of you who think this is the “right thing to do”. This should NOT be strictly up to you are legislators, senators and Governor, however, decided wholly by us the people and citizens of this state.

I believe that Marriage is between one man and one woman.

I am thankful for this opportunity to share my mana’o with you all in hearing my position, which again is opposition to bill SB NO 1.

Me ka ha’aha’a

Haunani K. Jones
47-469 G Waihe’e Place
Kane’ohe, HI 96744

1 808 382-9481

Brandon Akana
53-039 Pokiwai Pl.
Hauula, HI 96717

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 it denies individual citizens their First amendments of freedom of religion. Secondly, it extends parentage rights that would transfer Native Hawaiian ethnicity to non- Native Hawaiian individuals.

Please vote NO or move to consider the bill in other committees. Give the public the opportunity to inform lawmakers on the short-term and long-term impact.

Sincerely,
Brandon Akana

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:53:42 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Gerry
Last Name:	Tacderan
Email:	tacderanohana@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:54:14 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Kevin
Last Name:	Tacderan
Email:	tacderanohana@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:54:33 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Edward
Last Name:	Leavitt
Email:	dwardlamar23@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Edward Leavitt
Laie, Hawaii
96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:55:38 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Victoria
Last Name:	Yao
Email:	vyao88@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Victoria Yao
47285 B Hui Iwa St
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:02:15 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Maile
Last Name:	Rogers
Email:	Maile_m@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Maile Rogers
Waialua, Hawaii, 96791

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:03:47 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Makana
Last Name:	Aiona
Email:	makanaaiona@gmail.com

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support justice and fairness for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am for respecting the differences that we receive from our conception as male or female. These are not chosen, but given to us by birth. The same as desires some have for food or sleep or drink, for women or men. I would not be against civil union couples having the same financial benefits as married couples, but I believe it is to the utmost importance to recognize the difference between the life-long union of a man and a woman as man and wife and the union of two men or two women.

I believe our sexuality pertains to the balance which males and females bring to each other

Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:

not our preference to which we would like to have sex with. This idea is the essential foundation of acceptance and love and the latter is the foundation of tolerance and lust. Look to all of our young people addicted to video games on phones, food (leading to obesity and heart disease), cars, money, etc. We have been building a society that takes and doesn't give and I believe that is not who we want to be.

If we can recognize our differences and celebrate them realizing that everyone has different things to bring to the table, then we will achieve the goal of this country. To provide a place where people can live by their own beliefs (religion) freely without restriction as our constitution clearly states. But President Kennedy reminded us of how we made this a reality, "It is not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

If I do not write to you now, then I am not contributing to this ideal. And we live in a democracy, so I must voice my stance and beliefs on this issue. Changing the definition of marriage and altering our society in such a profound way through a special session takes the people out of it. If the majority of people want to see the idea and purpose of marriage changed to how this bill words it, then they will vote that way. However, I also believe that this bill changes more than just the definition of marriage and infringes on the right to religious freedom.

This is why I believe that your "yes" vote in the special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy.

Therefore, this bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever change thousand of years of indigenous and non-native beliefs, customs and traditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Makana Aiona
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:06:40 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Samuel
Last Name:	Erbe
Email:	samerbe@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill does not properly protect religious institutions. This bill does not protect individuals from being forced to support same-sex marriage. This bill does not protect parents to remove their children from public school classes that support or promote same sex marriage. This bill will change every aspect of our lives here in Hawaii. It is unfair

to rush it through a special session.

I believe that marriage as the union of a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families, and society. I also feel the protections offered in the current draft are completely inadequate to safeguard constitutionally guaranteed religious freedoms. Traditional marriage and religious liberty are among the most cherished and historically vital elements of society, and both deserve careful protection.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! I ask you to not rubber stamp this bill into law until there has been time to carefully examine the long term implications of the Marriage Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Samuel Erbe
17-4590 South Road
Kurtistown, Hi 96760

Talei Akana
98-402 koauka Loop #812
Aiea, Hi 96701

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
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*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, it is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively.

Please vote NO or move to consider the bill in other committees. Give the public the opportunity to inform lawmakers on the short-term and long-term impact.

Sincerely,
Talei Akana

From: Henry Lindo
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Against Marriage Equality Bill
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:14:27 PM

To : All Legislators, State of Hawaii House of Representatives

From : Henry Lindo Jr
Molokai, Hawaii

Re : Marriage Equality Bill Special Session

Date : October 25, 2013

Aloha to our House of Representative Legislators,

I thank you all for your hard work and years of tireless effort and dedication to the people of Hawaii and your respective districts.

I am humbly asking for your support against this Marriage Equality Bill because I believe this issue should be decided by the people and not our legislators. We can argue the fact that when the people of Hawaii last voted on the issue of same sex marriage that the people voted against it however the constitutional amendment wording reflected that the 'legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples.' It did not in any way state that the legislature shall have the power to allow same sex marriage and I believe that something as controversial as this should be in the hands of the voters and that time and attention should be taken in really looking into the effects a law such as this would have on society instead of accepting it hand in cheek that this law would be harmless on all facets of society and that it would only allow same sex people to marry without imposing on the rights and freedoms of others.

The Marriage Equality Bill seems harmless enough in that it would just give the same rights to all marriages, irrespective of gender, without imposition upon churches, businesses and individuals. However I believe that this bill is a wolf hidden in sheep's skin and clothing because it's what happens after the law is passed where the true fruit and intentions will show its fangs. Have you all truly taken the time to research the other states which have passed same sex legislation and seen some of the alarming judgments and impositions upon establishments, businesses, schools and individuals because those same sex laws designed to create equality were actually hammered upon the society in order to enforce and engrave their beliefs as personal rights and freedoms upon everyone else. As much as I believe in equality and fairness to all, there has to be a point where the leaders in society have to realize and question any act from one individual or group upon another to influence and force their beliefs upon any who would not agree and believe in the same things as the group. If you agree with that then you agree with martial law being imposed because you feel it is your right and belief that all should participate in it. Is that beneficial to the whole or to just a few that would benefit from its passing?

If you were to look at the actual amount of people in the gay and lesbian community who actually get married then you would see how truly small those numbers are so you must

consider the true reasons behind the establishment and passing of a Marriage Equality bill. Is it to serve the purpose of the community or to serve the groups or organizations that would benefit in the future if such legislation passed? I believe that this law would just be a stepping stone for hidden agendas of the organizations behind the movement to force and impose their homosexual beliefs and acceptance of their beliefs on all of society including the social, political and commercial realms. I believe that the bigger picture of what happens after the passing of such legislation is what is at stake and the using of a so called harmless marriage equality bill is just the match that is needed to create an inferno of imposing rights, freedoms and beliefs upon society. So this bill is just a front to the true intentions behind it and I would hope that you truly take the time and attention needed to see the whole picture and realize that this bill is larger than you believe it to be. I believe you should not pass it through and allow the people to vote and decide instead of taking this boulder upon your shoulders and deciding for society and humanity sakes.

Just so you all know I am a local Hawaiian man who loves all people regardless of the choices that people make in life. I may not agree with the lives that people choose but who am I to impose my beliefs and values on others especially through legislation no matter how well meaning I believe they are. I have many personal friends and family whom I love dearly who have same sex partners and choose those lifestyles and I love them regardless of their choices and I always will. With this understanding, however, I do have my beliefs which only allow marriage between opposite sex couples. I believe we were designed and created this way by God to populate the earth and also to maintain moral standards of integrity to teach future generations and I believe that any deviation from these standards through such acts as allowing same sex marriage would continue to degrade society and change the atmosphere of the place we live and grow. The Founding Fathers of this Nation and the Kings and Queens of Hawaii of the 1800's knew the Godly principles and established these nations upon these righteous principles for a reason. The Hawaii State Motto states "Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono or the life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness". This nation was founded and established on righteousness but we as a society and as leaders have allowed the rules to change by placing people's personal rights and freedoms above moral standards instead of allowing moral standards to dictate rights and freedoms without the imposition upon others' rights, freedoms and beliefs. I believe that detrimental ramifications to our society would continue and worsen further by allowing this bill to be passed. When societies can grow without imposing on other people's rights and freedoms, then that society can function unhindered and our generations after can continue to thrive and to grow up in a place of moral peace and joy. And that's what we stand to lose in our beautiful place of Hawaii if we allow this bill to pass. Our society would be dictated by what a couple people or groups feel would be fair and just to allow their rights and beliefs to be pushed and enforced upon society so that they can be accepted in a place that already accepts the as they are. Marriage is a holy and sanctified union between a man and a woman for lifelong commitment to each other and not a right that people are calling it to be so why fight for a right that is not even theirs in the first place. It's because as I said earlier this is just the stepping stone to some other agenda. So please take careful consideration in seeing the entire picture and not just a couple bits of information that seems to be harmless.

So I thank you all again for your time and consideration with my testimony. I am asking that you vote "NO" on this bill and let the people decide. Don't be a part of the reason that our Hawaii would be turned into something unrecognizable and so marriage equality rights driven that our society would continue to be degraded more than it already is. Be the voice that speaks truth and help maintain a moral standard of excellence that our future generations and heritage can be proud of. Keep marriage holy and sanctified the way it was created to be and allow our children to grow up in a society that has moral integrity and yet invites the opportunity for

people to choose whatever lifestyle they live without imposing their values and beliefs on others. We can all accept that we live in a changed society with different genders, lifestyles and choices but just because a person believes and lives a certain way it does not give them a right to impose their beliefs upon me, my family and my society which is what this bill does. I belief this bill is just a springboard to introduce and impose a lifestyle and belief for their societal approval and acceptance and would lead to their hidden agendas surfacing in the future. We already grow up in a State that accepts people for who they are so why go the extra mile and give them a right that does not belong to them or anybody for that matter. So please vote “NO” and may God bless you all and your families and continue to give you wisdom and knowledge to the best in the functions and positions in which you serve.

Much Mahalo,

Henry Lindo Jr
Molokai, Hawaii

Molly S. Yano
P. O. Box 580
Kealakekua, Hawaii 96750

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it will open the floodgates to religious persecution in our state. It denies individual citizens and business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion, does not protect business owners and clergy from lawsuits.

As with what is happening in other states where same-sex marriage has been legalized, I do not want my great-grandchildren to be taught the homosexual lifestyle in school.

Our rights to live our religion are being trampled on.

Please vote NO on S.B.1

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Molly S. Yano
Hawaii Voter

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:21:56 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Aaron
Last Name:	Shumway
Email:	shumwayam@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Bill SB1. First, an issue of this magnitude should not be relegated to a five-day special session. This bill proposes to redefine what all cultures and societies for millennia have reserved for the union between a man and a woman. More time is needed than a special session provides to fully vet this issue. Second, the religious liberties protections in the current draft of the bill are still inadequate. No provision is made for religiously-affiliated organizations. The bill only exempts "solemnization" of same-sex marriage and doesn't mention celebrations or providing goods & services for such (e.g., marriage counseling). Third, we the people should decide whether same-sex marriage should be legal. Article I, Section 23 of the Hawaii Constitution was not the public's abdication of its authority to decide what marriage is and should be in Hawaii.

Finally, and most important, legalizing same-sex marriage will have severe negative consequences on our island State and have far greater impact than merely qualifying same-sex couples to obtain federal benefits. This is not something our island people want or need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aaron Shumway
55-451 Naniloa Loop
Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:21:57 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Bruce
Last Name:	Meyers
Email:	bkunio@aol.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Bruce Meyers)
(Hilo, Hawaii, 96720)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:22:04 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	David
Last Name:	Waite
Email:	davidstrattonwaite@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly vetted and examined. Please allow the majority to be heard. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. David Stratton Waite Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:21:55 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Kasha
Last Name:	Coombs
Email:	kasha@thecoombs.net
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kasha Coombs
laie, HI, 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:21:55 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Marc
Last Name:	Gardner
Email:	mgardz@go.byuh.edu
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Marc Gardner
Laie HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:22:27 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Norman
Last Name:	Choy
Email:	cbch@chinesebc.org
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:22:00 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Shyla
Last Name:	Fuimaono
Email:	shy_gurl21@hotmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Shyla Fuimaono
Kahuku, HI 96731

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:22:05 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	SHYLA
Last Name:	LAFAELE
Email:	sfuimaono@bobbybenson.org
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Shyla Lafaele
Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:23:18 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Deborah
Last Name:	Elkington
Email:	kkaarrtt001@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:24:22 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Robin
Last Name:	Nagasako
Email:	rnagasak@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Robin Nagasako
Waianae, Hawaii 96792

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:24:48 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Annie-Leah
Last Name:	Tagatsuli
Email:	arania4@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:24:48 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Matthew
Last Name:	McArthur
Email:	mcarthur.matthewa@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Matthew McArthur
Laie, HI, 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:24:47 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Michael
Last Name:	Abagon
Email:	michael@hpbaptist.net
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I respectfully submit before you my disagreements with SB1. I admire our legislatures and i respect our governor. But to subject a crucial decision that will forever change the landscape of Hawaii, redefine its past History and transform a future that will affect my 14, 12 and 10 year old boy i believe is unconscienable. The decision of same-sex marriage is not equal to 9/11 and superferry issue. The rest of the 37 states in the mainland had not even rushed into a special session for they too understand that this issue need to be deliberated in a democratice way. Only 10 of your our legistlatures where here when the civil-unions were passed. In respect to democracy, you need to let the new legislatures deliberate on this issue on proper and alloted time and 5 days nor 6 won't do that. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Michael Abagon Mililani, HI 96789

(808) 741-6294

Colleen Ohira
95-1010 Kahakuhi St.
Mililani, HI 96789

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 it re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage. Second, it is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. Over 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women.

Please vote NO or move to consider the bill in other committees. Give the public the opportunity to inform lawmakers on the short-term and long-term impact.

Sincerely,
Colleen Ohira

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:27:27 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Francis
Last Name:	Blas
Email:	bigshorty@hawaii.rr.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:27:27 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Rachael
Last Name:	Iosua
Email:	riosua@gmal.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:27:44 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	CANDACE
Last Name:	VIZCARRA
Email:	dulce5124@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

CANDACE VIZCARRA
PEARL CITY, HI 96782

Dennis Ohira
95-1010 Kahakuhi St.
Mililani, HI 96789

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

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Please vote NO or move to consider the bill in other committees. Give the public the opportunity to inform lawmakers on the short-term and long-term impact.

Sincerely,
Dennis Ohira

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: *****SPAM***** I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:29:39 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Arania
Last Name:	Manumaleuna
Email:	aramamoe@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:32:26 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	John
Last Name:	Elkington
Email:	elkingtj@byuh.edu
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:32:26 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	kin Chung
Last Name:	Kwok
Email:	kkwok@go.byuh.edu
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sam Kin Chung Kwok
Laie, HI, 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:32:06 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Mamoe
Last Name:	Manumaleuna
Email:	aramamoe@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:32:25 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Mikilani
Last Name:	Willing
Email:	willingmikilani@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
	Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:
	I live in your district and I am a registered voter. I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.
	I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.
	This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs

and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mikilani Willing
56-274 Leleuli St.
Kahuku, HI 96731

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:31:36 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	rodney
Last Name:	pedro
Email:	prodknee@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Rodney K. Pedro Enter your Name here)
(Kailua, Hi. 96734Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:34:56 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Tawna
Last Name:	Manning
Email:	shanetaiaroa@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:36:01 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Angus
Last Name:	Christy
Email:	achristy@byuh.edu
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Angus Christy
Laie, Hawaii

Jean Nishiiwa
98-731 Moanalua Loop
Aiea, Hi 96701

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 it re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage. Second, it is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. Over 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women.

Please vote NO or move to consider the bill in other committees. Give the public the opportunity to inform lawmakers on the short-term and long-term impact.

Sincerely,
Jean Nishiiwa

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:35:51 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	William
Last Name:	Manning
Email:	shanetaiaroa@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:41:59 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Liliana
Last Name:	Lavulavu
Email:	lana96762@hotmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:42:41 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Shannon
Last Name:	McAffee
Email:	shannonmcaffee@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Shannon McAffee
Laie, HI, 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:45:51 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Tanner
Last Name:	Farley
Email:	tfarley1laie@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions, as well as moral and religious

values which we hold sacred. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Tanner Farley
Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:51:00 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Cary
Last Name:	Countryman
Email:	carycountryman@hotmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Cary C. Countryman
Hauula, Hawaii 96717

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:50:50 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Hokulani
Last Name:	Shattuck
Email:	Kalanikau07@me.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Hokulani Shattuck
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:54:24 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Pili
Last Name:	Lafaele
Email:	elderuili@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Pili Lafaele
Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:55:38 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Bonaventure
Last Name:	Mhonda
Email:	bmhonda@go.byuh.edu
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
	Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:
	I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.
	I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.
	This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Bonaventure Mhonda
Laie, HI, 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:56:08 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Vaughn
Last Name:	Lesuma
Email:	fee.g.n55@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:56:47 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Larene
Last Name:	Meyers
Email:	Tammy614@aol.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:57:50 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	John
Last Name:	Constantino
Email:	jconst91@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

John Constantino
Laie, HI, 96762

From:	Carole Kaapu
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Cc:	Sen. Donna Mercado Kim; Rep. John Mizuno; Carole Kaapu
Subject:	Testimony for JDL 10/28/13 10:30am SB 1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 2:58:57 PM

Testimony for Senate Hearing 10/28/2013 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Testimony in opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

In 1998 I voted for what I understood was defining marriage to be between one man and one woman. 70% of Hawaii's voters agreed with me. Now here it is almost 15 years later and this is still an issue.

If you want to redefine marriage, please let the people you represent decide by a constitutional amendment. One that means what it says, not a legal loophole.

"Should the State of Hawaii define marriage as solely between one man and one woman."

It seems that our elected officials are taking upon themselves to undo what the voters in Hawaii have already decided.

I ask you to please do one of two things:

A. Leave the institution of marriage the way it has been for thousands of years. And the way we thought we defined it in 1998.

B. Take the issue back to the citizens of the State and allow them to vote for a clearly worded constitutional amendment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Carole Kaapu
Voter and Concerned Citizen
Kapalama Heights

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:01:24 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Agnes
Last Name:	Slade
Email:	agnes_slade@hotmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:01:46 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Vanessa
Last Name:	Thomas
Email:	vanessathms9@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Vanessa Thomas
69 Lakeview Circle #5
Wahiawa, Hi. 96786

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:02:51 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Jamie
Last Name:	Akinaka
Email:	makinaka@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:02:48 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Vonn
Last Name:	Logan
Email:	loganvm@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to strongly oppose SB1 for the following reasons: 1. I do not believe that a special session is an appropriate manner of addressing such an important issue for the people of Hawaii. The compressed nature of this session will not permit all the people to contribute to the full discussion that this most issue deserves. 2. I do not feel that the bill as written provides adequate protection to the owners of religious facilities. By invoking the definitions of public accommodations, this bill opens the way for the definition of Public Accommodation to supersede the free practice of religion. 3. This bill does nothing to support the individual choice of people of faith that do not wish to support nor participate in the celebration of same gender unions under the broad coverage of public accommodations. I feel that the best way to address such an important and long standing issue it to let the people decide. I implore you to let the people

decide on this issue through an extensive discussion through all segments of our community involving all of our people. Then based on that discussion, let us go to the ultimate tool of choice, the ballot cast by individual citizens.

Vonn M. Logan
Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:03:32 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Mike
Last Name:	Akinaka
Email:	makinaka@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mike Akinaka
Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:03:31 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Renee
Last Name:	Cabrinha
Email:	eventsbyrenee@yahoo.com

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

I am opposed to this bill because as a wedding planner, I will not be protected under Bill SB1 and denied my right of conscience as an individual. I will be vulnerable to frivolous lawsuits from couples who perceive that I have refused their business because they are gay. Even if I was truly booked at the time of their request, they could still sue me if they choose to. I could lose my livelihood, my reputation, and my only means to help support my family.

I oppose this bill because there has not been adequate evidential study or forethought into the "unintended consequences" if this bill were to be enacted. I feel that just as we mandate that an EIS be required prior to certain actions that significantly affects the quality of the human environment, a Re-Defining of Marriage Impact Statement should also be required prior to actions taken that will significantly affect the quality of basic human rights of conscience provided under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. The impact that this bill will have regarding the basic right of conscience for each individual in the state of Hawaii, needs to be considered in length and in detail prior to a major decision such as this.

I oppose this bill because it will adversely affect my children, my grandchildren, and my future posterity and CHANGE their future forever.

I oppose this special session and all that you as legislators have done to circumvent democracy. Do not hastily pass this bill and LIMIT THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE! OUR VOICE AND OUR VOTES ARE WHAT GOT YOUR HERE!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Renee Ahuna Cabrinha
Hau`ula, Hawaii 96717

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:04:56 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Kehau
Last Name:	Lauano
Email:	klauano@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:05:50 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	sefanaia
Last Name:	Kaumaitotoya
Email:	sefanaia.oem@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sefanaia Kaumaitotoya
Laie, HI, 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:14:05 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Elisa
Last Name:	Marques
Email:	lisa-fm@otmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Elisa Marques
Laie, HI, 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:14:53 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Loxley
Last Name:	Manuma
Email:	loxmanuma@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Loxley Manuma
Waipahu, HI 96797

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:16:00 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Olivia
Last Name:	Fuimaono
Email:	Oliviafuimaono@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Olivia Fuimaono
Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:33:26 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Howard
Last Name:	Nash
Email:	sergeantforchrist@hotmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Howard Nash)
(Hilo, Hawaii 96721)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:37:39 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Michael
Last Name:	Potter
Email:	miketike@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Michael Poter
Laie, HI, 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:39:37 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Niue
Last Name:	Suschnigg
Email:	sn.jean@yahoo.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Niue J. Suschnigg
Kahuku, HI. 96731

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:42:06 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Derek
Last Name:	Clark
Email:	derek96789@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Derek Clark
94-410 Punono St
Mililani, HI 96789

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:42:02 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	sage
Last Name:	kaka
Email:	sageranana@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:43:07 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Darryl
Last Name:	Willis
Email:	darrylwillis@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: My name is Darryl Willis, and I live at 340 Kapii Place, Hilo, HI 96720. I would like to voice my opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality. This is an important issue that should be taken up with a lot of time, thought and input from the people. This is how our democracy was meant to work. However, a special session treats the issue lightly in the sense that it is a rush job, and does not give ample consideration that other bills receive in a regular session. This bill at the very least needs the full consideration that a regular legislative session would provide. It is so important, it would even be better to put it on a ballot, and let the people decide directly. This is not a civil rights issue as the proponents say. It is about changing the definition of marriage. I have 2 grandsons, both innocent and beautiful little boys, not yet in school, but that is not far off. It is a horrible thought that someday if this bill passes, they could and probably would be taught in school that

same-sex relations are OK. It is wrong and clearly violates nature. The picture of my grandsons sitting in class learning instructions about homosexual acts is very distressing. This is the future if this bill passes. It's already happening elsewhere. This is about the proper definition of marriage being between one man and one woman. It is about our legacy of raising our families in a civil and moral society. Government has an obligation to the people to protect and maintain a society that is optimal for families and raising children. Changing the definition of marriage will cause this to decay.

Government can still find a way to provide benefits to same-sex couples. The alteration of the definition of marriage is not necessary.

Please protect our religious freedom. Most churches are open to public functions and events. Government should not force churches to marry same-sex couples against their religious beliefs nor force into law doctrine that is so against the traditions of our country.

I urge you to stop this bill. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Darryl D. Willis
Registered voter: Senate District 1 and House District 2.

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:43:53 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Naumati
Last Name:	Slade
Email:	sladen@go.byuh.edu
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Naumati Slade
Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:44:54 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Pamela
Last Name:	Akina
Email:	grandmaakina21@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

I hope that you will do the right thing for the people and allow us to vote on this very important issue.
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Pamela Akina
Kahuku, Hawaii 96731

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:48:14 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Darryl
Last Name:	Willis
Email:	darrylwillis@gmail.com

Karl Rhoads, Chair Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Judiciary Committee House Finance Committee

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees:

My name is Darryl Willis, and I live at 340 Kapii Place, Hilo, HI 96720.

I would like to voice my opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality.
This is an important issue that should be taken up with a lot of time, thought and input from the people. This is how our democracy was meant to work. However, a special session treats the issue lightly in the sense that it is a rush job, and does not give ample consideration that other bills receive in a regular session. This bill at the very least needs the full consideration that a regular legislative session would provide. It is so important, it would even be better to put it on a ballot, and let the people decide directly. This is not a civil rights issue as the proponents say. It is about changing the definition of marriage.

I have 2 grandsons, both innocent and beautiful little boys, not yet in school, but that is not far off. It is a horrible thought that

Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:

someday if this bill passes, they could and probably would be taught in school that same-sex relations are OK. It is wrong and clearly violates nature. The picture of my grandsons sitting in class learning instructions about homosexual acts is very distressing. This is the future if this bill passes. It's already happening elsewhere. This is about the proper definition of marriage being between one man and one woman. It is about our legacy of raising our families in a civil and moral society. Government has an obligation to the people to protect and maintain a society that is optimal for families and raising children. Changing the definition of marriage will cause this to decay.

Government can still find a way to provide benefits to same-sex couples. The alteration of the definition of marriage is not necessary. Please protect our religious freedom. Most churches are open to public functions and events. Government should not force churches to marry same-sex couples against their religious beliefs nor force into law doctrine that is so against the traditions of our country.

I urge you to stop this bill. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Darryl D. Willis
Registered voter: Senate District 1 and House District 2.

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:48:21 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Harmony
Last Name:	Laufou
Email:	7bandgeek7@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:48:17 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Kenvee
Last Name:	Daniel-Parker
Email:	josey004@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and by only a few people instead of the people of this state. I ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be votted and examined as all other bills. We "The People" who elected you to serve as our voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs

and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kenvee J. Daniel-Parker
Wahiawa,Hawaii,96786

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:49:17 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Johnathan
Last Name:	Bolton
Email:	johnathanbolton@hotmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people of Hawai'i to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe that Governor Abercrombie is asking the legislature to take actions that are against the will of the residents of this great State. I support equality for all people, including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the Hawaii legislature deciding to pass a law on one of the most contentious social issues of our time, rather than allowing the residents of this State to decide our laws through the ballot box. It is your job to uphold the principles of democracy and allow the democratic process to take place for the will of the people. Allowing the members of the legislature to decide issues based on pressure from the Governor is not how the democratic process is supposed to work.

Even if you disagree that this issue should be voted on by the residents of Hawai'i, you should agree that this bill should not be considered during a special session, but should be considered during a regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined. The people who elected you to serve as their voices must have a say with respect to a law that could profoundly affect the State of Hawaii and would changes thousand of years of culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy. May God bless you.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Johnathan C. Bolton
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:51:18 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Betsy
Last Name:	Nakano
Email:	betsykeaau@aol.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Betsy Nakano
Keaau, Hawaii 96749

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:53:34 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Robert
Last Name:	Crowell
Email:	mililanicrowell@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Robert Crowell
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:53:39 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Stanley
Last Name:	Fernandez
Email:	sonnyfernan@msn.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:57:36 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Frank
Last Name:	Akhay
Email:	Pokiman357@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:58:29 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Kevin
Last Name:	Hanna
Email:	khanna@gemini.edu
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kevin Hanna
17-204 Meaulu
Keaau, Hi 96749

(352) 278-4326

From: sandy
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: RE: OPPOSITION OF SB1 on Equality
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:58:11 PM

Honorable Chairman Clayton Hee and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee,

My name is Sandra Y. Shimabukuro, a registered voter, residing at 98-500 Kaonohi St. #4 in Aiea, Hawaii. I want to initially thank you for allowing me to testify today of my concern over this Special Session on Same Sex Marriage. I also want to express my appreciation to all of you for your service to Hawaii.

I believe this Special Session should not occur because a five day session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our lifetime and beyond.

Apparently no amendments can be made to this legislation. As a result, true democracy will not occur at this time.

There will not be enough time during these five days of Special Session for the voice of the people to be heard so a "yes" vote will be noted as a "no" vote to democracy.

We, the people of Hawaii voted on this issue in 1998. Why not wait until regular Session with more time for discussion, then allow the people of Hawaii to vote?

After much research on the effects of Same Sex Marriage in the State of Massachusetts and in Canada on the entire education system, I believe our people will be negatively impacted as well.

I believe the Godly legacy that was commissioned into the Constitution of Hawaii will be altered immeasurably by this harmful bill.

Thus, I strongly recommend as a concerned registered voter, to suspend this Special Session until more time is given for comprehensive research and analysis.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Y. Shimabukuro
98-500 #4 Kaonohi St.
Aiea, Hi 96701

sandyshimabukuro@aol.com
password:shimas

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:39:10 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Gloria
Last Name:	Sterman
Email:	Gialuchi@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:59:19 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Ranny
Last Name:	Catingub
Email:	rannyislandparadise@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:59:35 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Aurelia
Last Name:	Gellert
Email:	akg28hawaii@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition :-) to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
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session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aurelia Gellert
Laie, Hawaii 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:06:11 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Elina
Last Name:	Simon
Email:	jimenehune@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Elina Simon
92-1037 Kanehoa Loop, Kapolei, HI 96707

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:07:44 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Virginia
Last Name:	Domligan
Email:	prayercenterpacific@hawaii.rr.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Virginia Domligan)
(Pearl City 96782)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:11:44 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Paul
Last Name:	Kim
Email:	pauladamkim@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the law of the land, the Constitution. I support equality for all thought as protected by the 1st amendment in the Bill of Rights. I am opposed to any law "respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech." This law is fundamentally a power grab of the state over religion This issue is not about gay vs. straight. It is all about the power of the state to mandate over civil liberties and freedom. The definition of marriage is beyond the power of the government constrained by a Constitution to decide. It is more correct to eliminate all mention of marriage in law than to decide how it is defined. Two individuals

can define their relationship any way they choose. It is, however, a violation of Constitutional law to confer legal benefits to one definition or another. That process creates political "groups" and goes against the spirit of lawful individualism under the Constitution.

For most of the history of the United States, marriage conferred no government endorsement,and thus was freely defined by individuals.

Government benefits due to a marital choice, are not guaranteed, and if anything, is discriminatory against all those who choose to be single. Let's uphold the law of the land so we can move on to creating true peace and prosperity in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
Paul A. Kim
Aiea, HI 96701

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:25:45 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Jennifer
Last Name:	Chen
Email:	jennifer.chen.hawaii@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jennifer Chen
54-116 Hauula Park Place
Hauula, Hi 96717

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:28:10 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	sina
Last Name:	hanohano
Email:	aerachi8@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sina Hanohano
Laie HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:29:06 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Heirama
Last Name:	Hanohano
Email:	raiatua08@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Heirama Hanohano
Laie HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:29:03 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Welina
Last Name:	Mills
Email:	leahiolani@live.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Welina Mills
Hau'ula, Hawaii, 96717

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:32:39 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	James
Last Name:	Lui
Email:	jahrocks7@live.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. The people of Hawaii should not be subjected to laws or statutes that would subject them to having to choose between upholding their Constitutional 1st Amendment Rights and being sued on the grounds of a difference of religious beliefs. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in 5 days and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be

vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

James Lui
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:39:07 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Olivia
Last Name:	Christy
Email:	christy.olivia@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Olivia Christy
Laie, Hawaii 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:39:59 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Jin
Last Name:	Choi
Email:	jjsc70@hotmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:41:37 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Brent
Last Name:	Southam
Email:	brsoutham@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all Especially the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of our Republic, and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Additionally, I urge you to read and consider the following letter:
http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/marriage/promotion-and-defense-of-marriage/upload/Marriage-and-Religious-Freedom-Letter-Jan-12-2012-4.pdf

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brent Southam
Waikoloa, HI 96738

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:43:41 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Diane
Last Name:	Jacinto
Email:	jadijojaki@msn.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Diane Jacinto
Makawao, Hawaii 96768

I believe and was taught, marriage is a sacred union between a man, woman & God.
In the bible, it states God created marriage, and here goes man again poking his nose into the business of God.
Keep marriage as traditional as possible.

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:45:19 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Mele
Last Name:	Lavulavu
Email:	lavulavm@byuh.edu
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mele Lavulavu
Hau'ula, Hawaii 96717

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:48:17 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Philip
Last Name:	Yasuhara
Email:	philngeri@earthlink.net
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Philip K. Yasuhara
91-943 Oaniani Street
Kapolei, HI 96707
808 674-9122

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:49:36 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	lourdes
Last Name:	tupper
Email:	lourdes_76@hotmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lourdes Tupper
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:52:00 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Alicia
Last Name:	Okumura
Email:	Ali.okumura@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:52:08 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Keith
Last Name:	Peterson
Email:	keith.peterson@byuh.edu
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:08:17 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Jorgel
Last Name:	Valeriano
Email:	jedval55@yahoo.companies
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:13:18 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Chris
Last Name:	Baron
Email:	baron.chris@alumni.duke.edu
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people as was clearly expressed when we voted statewide on this issue in 1998. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week in a process that doesn't allow for amending the bill, and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills, including allowing more citizens access to register their opinion with elected representatives who are duty bound to

consider their constituents' demands. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say - in a statewide referendum - in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Chris Baron)
(Honolulu, Hawaii 96821)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:13:59 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Kaden
Last Name:	Peek
Email:	kadenjp@go.byuh.edu
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kaden Peek
Laie, Hawaii, 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:16:43 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Ia Mei
Last Name:	Baron
Email:	simuliustus@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people as expressed in public statewide ballot referendum in 1998. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week, in a special session process not allowing for the bill to be amended, and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy - via a public statewide vote as in 1998 - that

will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Ia-Mei Baron)
(Honolulu, Hawaii 96821)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:19:16 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Centennial
Last Name:	Toleafoa
Email:	toleafoa@byuh.edu
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:20:25 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Larry
Last Name:	Schroeder
Email:	LDSchroeder@hawaii.rr.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Larry D. Schroeder
75-308 West Kakalina Street, Kailua-Kona,
HI 96740

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:20:46 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Patti
Last Name:	Lafleur
Email:	hawaiipat4@hotmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. What you are proposing to do is against, the words given to us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of

indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Enter your Name here)
(Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:21:46 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	John
Last Name:	Cheng
Email:	John_savant@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

John Cheng
541 Kukuau St.
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:21:52 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Luana
Last Name:	George
Email:	Lgeorge@hawaiiantel.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Luana George
Aiea, HI 96701

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:24:56 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Edwin
Last Name:	Pickop
Email:	ecpickop@hawaii.rr.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Edwin C. Pickop
Kapa'a, HI 96746

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:24:33 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Henry
Last Name:	George
Email:	Cerebralz@gmail.com
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Henry George jr.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:30:03 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Joshua
Last Name:	Cannon
Email:	cannonjj@go.byuh.edu
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Joshua Cannon
Laie, Hawaii 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:37:03 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Jean
Last Name:	Campbell
Email:	jccampbell53103@yahoo.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mrs Jean Campbell
161 Alawaena Way
Hilo, Hi 96720

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:48:36 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Paul
Last Name:	Hurst
Email:	paulrhurst@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1 for the following 3 reasons: 1) This bill has been unilaterally rushed through by Governor Abercrombie. Why is he in such a hurry? If we are to overturn thousands of years of custom, culture and tradition, it warrants a much more lengthy deliberation than a special session can afford. If this bill is passed there is no way to unpass it, no matter what the consequences. Shouldn't we at least wait a few years and study what the consequences of the civil union law are before we rush into this? 2) There is no need for this bill. Hawaii already has a civil union law that gives same sex couples all the benefits of marriage granted by the state of Hawaii. This is not a civil rights issue, as marriage is a CHOICE and everyone theoretically has the same choice. No matter what is done there will always be inequality in marriage. 3) This law doesn't adequately protect religious institutions and freedoms. The

courts in Hawaii have a track record of unwarranted attacks against freedom of religion. Please don't give more opportunities for lawsuits to be filed against people of faith that don't want to participate in activities that go against their religious beliefs. Please don't open the door for teachers in the classroom being forced to teach things that go against their beliefs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Paul Hurst
Laie, HI 96762

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:51:23 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Audrey
Last Name:	Maluo
Email:	Audrey@makaihale.com

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1: My husband Jeremiah and I believe that all men and women should receive equal rights; however, equal federal benefits appear to be the driving force behind the Marriage Equality Act. In actuality this bill will redefine marriage and cause needless confusion in the minds of our children. Traditional marriage has always meant the union of a man and a woman, which allows children to be brought into the world. Have you given thought as to what your life might have been like if you had two men or two women as your parents? This issue is actually all about how marriage connects parents and children and yet-to-be-born generations-the later being a physical impossibility in the union of two people of the same gender.

Equality concerning in the wording of this bill is lacking of protection for religious liberties. It may appear to grant equality in federal funding for those who favor it, but it certainly does not give equal consideration to the rights off those who do not. Your responsibility as an elected official, is to represent all of your constituents. We trust that you will approach this issue with areful consideration for the 69% of voters who voted against same gender marriage in 1998.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Audrey and Jeremiah Maluo (Enter your Name here)
59-411 Pupu Place
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743 (Enter your City, State, and Zipcode here)

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:58:16 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Sam
Last Name:	K
Email:	STK808@GMAIL.COM
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sam & Thomasene Kinikini
Laie, HI 96762

H. THOMAS KAY, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
State Capitol Auditorium

My name is Tom Kay. I am a kamaʻaina attorney. I strongly oppose enacting S.B. 1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 in this Second Special Session of the Hawaii State Legislature. Such action will be unconstitutional under Article 1 §23 of the Hawaii Constitution. §23 provides as follows:

"The legislature shall have power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples."

§23 was enacted by the legislature in 1997 as an amendment to the Hawaii Constitution and ratified by 69.2 percent of the voters in 1998. The sole purpose of this constitutional amendment was to reverse the Hawaii Supreme Court decision in the Baehr v. Lewin case in which the court had held that same-sex marriages in Hawaii were constitutional. Following the passage of §23 the Hawaii Supreme Court held, in an unreported decision, that the §23 constitutional marriage amendment validated HRS §572-1 which states that marriage can only be between one man and one woman.

To the 285,671 Hawaii voters out of 412,820 who cast votes in 1998, this meant that by reading constitutional amendment §23 along with the language of HRS §572-1 there could be no legal marriages of same-sex couples in Hawaii.

It also means to the voters today including those of the 285,671 voters still living in Hawaii that any consideration of legalizing marriage of same-sex couples must require an amendment to §23 of the Hawaii Constitution by a vote of the people of Hawaii.

If the Hawaii Legislature in this special session passes the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act two inevitable events will occur:

1. Litigation in both federal and state courts will continue for many years to determine whether the Marriage Act is constitutional before it is ever implemented.
2. There will be an extremely large group of angry Hawaii voters whose right to vote on this major issue was abrogated by current legislators.

The obvious solution to this dilemma is to let the Hawaii voters decide on whether same-sex couples should be allowed to marry under Hawaii law.

From: Patricia Chung
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** Oppose Same-Sex Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:27:20 AM

Patricia Chung
98-1453 F Kaahumanu Street
Aiea, Hawaii, 96701
10/26/13

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Patricia Chung. I was born and raised in Hawaii and have been a public school teacher in this state for 23 years. I have taught kindergarten for 14 of those years.

I am testifying today to say I oppose same-sex marriage and I oppose the Special Session.

A lot of people think, "Oh, everyone should have rights," and then they just support same-sex marriage. But this bill, that the governor hopes to pass, is so much beyond that.

Although I do not support same-sex marriage, I understand that homosexuals would like to have the same rights as heterosexuals. I'm not out to bash homosexuals. I have many friends and family members who are homosexual. The part that I find very difficult to accept is that this bill, that Governor Abercrombie is bringing up in the Special Session, can take away MY rights and freedom.

There are examples within and outside of the United States, where same-sex marriage has been legalized, and has taken away the rights of the average citizen. Canada and Massachusetts are a couple of examples.

If this bill passes, I, as a teacher, could lose my job if I do not teach that homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle. And it doesn't matter if you are in a private school, or if you home school - you will be held under this law. It will affect our children and grandchildren.

In Canada, homosexuality is taught as acceptable in kindergarten with books like Daddy's Wedding (with two men getting married) and King and King. In 2nd and 3rd grade children would role-play and have two children of the same sex "get married" from an adult in clerical attire. And in 6th and 7th grade, students are taught about masturbation, oral sex, anal sex, and more. Vulgar posters have been posted in high schools - one with the F-word blatantly displayed as a verb; one with two men (in position) on how to give good oral sex! I know this is horrific to hear, but it has actually happened! It makes me sick to my stomach that children are exposed to such trash in the names of "equality" and "education".

We hope and pray that it doesn't come to this in Hawaii.

I share this because we need to be informed!! People are making decisions based on very inaccurate, naive information. Again, this is not to bash homosexuals. I believe most homosexuals would just like to have the same rights as heterosexuals - I bet if they knew this could happen in our schools and communities, they would not want to see it happen either.

This is why I am am testifying. Huge entities from outside of Hawaii, with horrific agendas and vast amounts of money, are trying to control and change our islands to support their viewpoint. I cannot just sit and let this type of agenda slip into our beautiful Hawaii - all because our people are so loving and accepting. I hate to see our people deceived. I/we need to fight for our rights and the rights of the generations to come.

If this bill passes, I ask that there be an amendment for teachers who do not support same-sex marriage to "opt-out" of being forced to teach it, and that doing so would not be labeled a "hate crime".

Thank you for hearing me out.

Aloha,
Patricia Chung

From:	Michael Lwin
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Testimony on Same Sex Marriage Bill
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:36:30 PM

To: Chair Clayton Hee, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Mike M. Lwin
91-1325 Kuanoo Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
(808) 678-3778

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to Special Session and SB 1

Aloha Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting this testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage in Hawaii.

In 1998 I voted for what I understood was defining marriage to be between one man and one woman. In fact, 70% of Hawaii's voters agreed with me. Now here it is almost 15 years later and this is still an issue. If you want to redefine marriage, please let the people you represent decide by a constitutional amendment. One that means what it says, not a legal loophole. It seems that our elected officials are taking upon themselves to undo what the voters in Hawaii have already decided.

Additionally, I oppose this bill because the religious protection clauses are inadequate for people of faith to exercise their First Amendment right of speech and religion.

I ask you to please do one of two things:

A. Leave the institution of marriage the way it has been for thousands of years. And the way we thought we defined it in 1998

B. Take the issue back to the citizens of the State and allow us to vote for a clearly worded constitutional amendment

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Mahalo!
Mike Lwin

From: Jeremy Moncur
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Opposed to SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:30:48 PM

I stand in strong opposition to SB1. Not only because of my beliefs about marriage and how that should stay as it was intended between man and woman, but also because of the sneaky way this is trying to be passed with this special session.

Jeremy Moncur

--
jjmoncur@gmail.com

From: da4clams@juno.com
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Cc: da4clams@juno.com; ronyoshida@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB 1 Hearing
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:02:14 PM

To the Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Senate Bill 1
Hearing Date and Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 am
I plan to testify in person

Mr. Chairman, Madame Vice Chair, and Honorable Committee Members:

My name is Creig Lam, I am a citizen of the State of Hawai'i and I am a voter. I have no Hawaiian blood quantum, however my maternal grandfather was a documented citizen of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, my parents were citizens of the Territory of Hawai'i and so I consider myself a keiki o ka 'aina, and am grateful to live in the State of Hawai'i and the United States of America.

With all due respect to the persons in favor of Senate Bill 1, I stand in opposition to that bill which, if made law, will do damage to the bonafide rights extended to me and the church I attend by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, particularly the clause which, among other things, prohibits the making of any law respecting the establishment of religion, impeding the free exercise of religion, or abridging freedom of speech. The **non-exemption** of owners or operators of any religious facility from the State's "public accommodation" statutes would place those owners or operators in the position of being compelled to solemnize marriages that are in direct conflict with particular church doctrine.

Let not my beloved Hawai'i be the first State to attempt to trample upon the Constitutional rights of one group while granting what another group seeks through legalization. Please amend SB 1 to exempt religious facilities from "public accommodation" statutes in regard to the subject of this bill, or if not possible within the time constraints of the Special Legislative Session, postpone action on this far-reaching bill until the next Regular Session of the Legislature, to give time for due consideration of its impact on religious civil rights.

Thank you for receiving my comments and for your dedicated service to the people of Hawai'i.

With much Aloha,

Creig Lam

From:	Eric Hubner
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Strong Opposition of SB1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:08:20 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I strongly oppose Bill SB1.

Rushing legislation through during a holiday week as popular as Christmas in Hawaii, when parents and grandparents are distracted with children, is not participatory democracy. Its an end run on the people of Hawaii.

A one week special session in which amendments cannot be introduced to bills is not voter participation and voter choice. And limiting voter testimony to one minute is a strangled voter voice. As is the governor's introduction other proposed legislation into what was to be an exclusive discussion of the marriage bill. The governor's plan takes up the tiny public air time with side issues and further smothers the voice of the people on the marriage debate.

We ask you to defer discussion of marriage legislation until the regular session in January when you can give it the time and attention it deserves and the people can be heard. It is unfair and undemocratic to push this marriage bill now with so many obstacles set before those who want an open and participatory discussion.

We elected you to that which is right and just and true to the trust placed in you by the people of Hawaii . And we trust that you will do so. Thank you.

I would like the opportunity to testify on Monday October 28.

Eric Hubner

Mountain View

Hawaii 96771

October 26, 2013

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am not okay with SB1 being passed. I do not believe that same sex marriage is appropriate or right. I do NOT want my children to be taught that same sex relationships are normal or right. I believe marriage is ONLY between one man and one woman. If this bill gets passed then the State of Hawaii will be mandating that I have to believe same sex marriage is normal. That is wrong. I have a right to believe same sex marriage is wrong. Just as much right as the one who says it is not wrong. I am a citizen of the United States of America and a local resident of the State Of Hawaii. I do not want this bill passed.

I will be present to testify.

Thank you,

Grace Alarcio

91-1156 Ho'Omahana Street

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

808-445-1450

Grace.Alarcio@yahoo.com

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am honored to speak today on behalf of the marriages of our fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers—marriage between man and woman.

There are four reasons why I support traditional marriage, and oppose same-sex marriage. **Those four reasons are Hosanna, Victoria, Josiah and Jeremiah—my four young children. My oldest child, 10 year old Hosanna recently asked me what same-sex marriage is. As I began describing that it's marriage between a man and a man, or a woman and a woman, a bewildered look**, a look of incomprehension **crept over her face.**

We who are older dismiss her incredulity to lack of education or experience. **We who are in this room today are older and, supposedly, wiser.** But **are we?**

In Massachusetts, the passage of same-sex marriage has gradually but inexorably led to gay sexuality being taught as acceptable and *normal* to high schoolers, middle, and even elementary school children.

Three years after same-sex marriage was legalized in Massachusetts, federal judges ruled in *Parker v. Hurley* that because same-sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts, schools actually had a *duty* to *normalize* homosexual relationships to children. For example, second graders at a Massachusetts public school were read a book, "King and King", about two men who have a romance and marry each other, with a picture of them kissing. Parents who complained were told that the school had no obligation to notify them or allow them to opt-out their child. In a 3rd grade class, a man undergoing a sex-change operation and cross-dressing was being brought into class to teach the children that there are now "different kinds of families." School officials told a mother who objected that her complaints were considered "inappropriate behavior."[i]

If same-sex marriage becomes the law of our islands, just **brace yourself.**

But, honorable legislators, I beg you to first stop and think about our keiki. At an age where their minds are so pliable, where they soak up words and ideas like a sponge, is that the kind of teaching you want influencing your own child or grandchild? Yet, that is the Pandora's Box we are opening for our keiki if you pass this bill.

As we move toward a vote, I ask just one thing: Please remember Hosanna, Victoria, Josiah and Jeremiah. Remember the lives of your own children and grandchildren whom we are experimenting with if we redefine the bedrock institution of human civilization and of Hawai'I nei. Please vote NO on this bill.

Mahalo Ke Akua!

David Chun
1815 Fern St., Honolulu, HI 96826

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[i] "What same-sex "marriage" has done to Massachusetts: It's far worse than most people realize," by Brian Camenker, October 20, 2008, *Mass Resistance*,

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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As we move toward a vote, I ask just one thing: Please remember Hosanna, Victoria, Josiah and Jeremiah. Remember the lives of your own children and grandchildren whom we are experimenting with if we redefine the bedrock institution of human civilization and of Hawai'I nei. Please vote NO on this bill.

Mahalo Ke Akua!

David Chun
1815 Fern St., Honolulu, HI 96826

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[i] "What same-sex "marriage" has done to Massachusetts: It's far worse than most people realize," by Brian Camenker, October 20, 2008, *Mass Resistance*,

From:	Baruch Hashem
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	JDL in person testimony: Gay Marriage,-"Common Core" Sexuality Education School Standards (LGBT curriculum by GLSEN now used in 10 Hawaii schools and Alfie's Home (a message of hope) children's book by Ex-Gay therapist now happily married with children...
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:30:00 PM

On Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:28 PM, Baruch Hashem <mashiach_is_coming@yahoo.com> wrote:

1. JDL Committee on Judiciary and Labor
2. SB-1 Relating to Equal Rights
3. Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013
4. I will testify in person JDLTestimony-InPerson@capitol.hawaii.gov
5. CC to Committee Clerk, Room 407, State Capitol

Gay Marriage,-"Common Core" Sexuality Education School Standards (LGBT curriculum by GLSEN now used in 10 Hawaii schools and Alfie's Home (a message of hope) children's book by Ex-Gay therapist now happily married with children (can watch on YouTube.
****

1. **Homosexual acts are not safe for homosexuals**
   a. Homosexinfo.org/sexuality -non biased overview of each sex act
   b. HIV/AIDS CDC Surveillance Report signed by Governor Abercrombie – 2000 have died from AIDS in Hawaii not counting those who left the islands
2. **The rectum is not made for sex**
   a. Peritonitis – result of a punctured rectum, painful slow death
   b. Colostomy bags - Fisting and big objects put in rectum can lead to a life with a colostomy bag
3. **Homosexual acquaintances**
   a. I have a gay hairdresser, lesbian manicurist, a very intelligent gay friend and neighbor who is slowly dying from aids
   b. I am disqualified as a homophobe.
4. **People Can Change is a successful counseling program** at the Landover Baptist Church http://www.landoverbaptist.net/showthread.php?p=1022936
   a. **Ex-Gay Pride Parade** - After the parade the book **Alfie's Home** was sold. http://www.landoverbaptist.net/showthread.php?p=1026145 The Ladies of Landover Bible Study group were on hand to help straighten the ties of those single men marching in the ex-gay pride parade, and to sell copies of the helpful book, **"Alfie's Home,"** in which a young boy learns that he's not really gay, he's just confused. (Scroll down 2 inches to see a few pages of the book or go to link below)
   b. **Alfies Home**, as read by Cassie Levy - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byabfSWVtCQ Alfie's Home is a children's book written by an ex-gay therapist. Click on the link above for a one minute YouTube of the story. Alfie's Home is a real life testimony. The ex-gay author is now happily married with children and he counsels ex-gays.
5. **Hawaii Sodomy Law**
   a. Hawaii's sodomy law was repealed in 1973.
   b. Sodomy laws in the United States were largely a matter of state rather than federal jurisdiction, except for laws governing the U.S. Armed Forces. In 1963, the penalties for sodomy in the various states varied from **imprisonment for two to ten years** and/or **a fine of US $2,000**.[36] By 2002, 36 states had repealed all sodomy laws or had them overturned by

court rulings. The remaining sodomy laws were invalidated by the 2003 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Lawrence v. Texas*.

6. **Sodomy** http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/sodomy
   a. ***Anal or oral*** *intercourse between human beings, or any sexual relations between a human being and an* ***animal****, the act of which may be punishable as a criminal offense.* The word *sodomy* acquired different meanings over time. Under the Common Law, sodomy consisted of anal intercourse. Traditionally courts and statutes referred to it as a "**crime against nature" or as copulation "against the order of nature**." In the United States, the term eventually encompassed oral sex as well as anal sex. The crime of sodomy was classified as **a felony.**
7. **Powerful New Video Explores How Agenda 21 Will Affect You**

http://thenewamerican.com/reviews/movies/item/12947-powerful-new-video-explores-how-agenda-21-will-affect-you

From:	Baruch Hashem
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Cc:	God loves you!
Subject:	Updated -JDL in person testimony: Gay Marriage,-"Common Core" Sexuality Education School Standards (LGBT curriculum by GLSEN now used in 10 Hawaii schools and Alfie's Home (a message of hope) children's book by Ex-Gay therapist now happily married with...
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:31:36 PM

JDL Committee on Judiciary and Labor
SB-1 Relating to Equal Rights
Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013
I will testify in person JDLTestimony-InPerson@capitol.hawaii.gov
CC to Committee Clerk, Room 407, State Capitol

Gay Marriage,-"Common Core" Sexuality Education School Standards (LGBT curriculum by GLSEN now used in 10 Hawaii schools and Alfie's Home (a message of hope) children's book by Ex-Gay therapist now happily married with children (can watch on YouTube.

****

1. **Homosexual acts are not safe for homosexuals**
   a. Homosexinfo.org/sexuality -non biased overview of each sex act
   b. HIV/AIDS CDC Surveillance Report signed by Governor Abercrombie – 2000 have died from AIDS in Hawaii not counting those who left the islands
2. **The rectum is not made for sex**
   a. Peritonitis – result of a punctured rectum, painful slow death
   b. Colostomy bags - Fisting and big objects put in rectum can lead to a life with a colostomy bag
3. **Homosexual acquaintances**
   a. I have a gay hairdresser, lesbian manicurist, a very intelligent gay friend and neighbor who is slowly dying from aids
   b. I am disqualified as a homophobe.
4. **People Can Change is a successful counseling program** at the Landover Baptist Church http://www.landoverbaptist.net/showthread.php?p=1022936
   a. **Ex-Gay Pride Parade** - After the parade the book **Alfie's Home** was sold. http://www.landoverbaptist.net/showthread.php?p=1026145 The Ladies of Landover Bible Study group were on hand to help straighten the ties of those single men marching in the ex-gay pride parade, and to sell copies of the helpful book, **"Alfie's Home**," in which a young boy learns that he's not really gay, he's just confused. (Scroll down 2 inches to see a few pages of the book or go to link below)
   b. **Alfies Home**, as read by Cassie Levy - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byabfSWVtCQ Alfie's Home is a children's book written by an ex-gay therapist. Click on the link above for a one minute YouTube of the story. Alfie's Home is a real life testimony. The ex-gay author is now happily married with children and he counsels ex-gays.
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   a. Hawaii's sodomy law was repealed in 1973.
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6. **Sodomy** http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/sodomy

a. ***Anal or oral*** *intercourse between human beings, or any sexual relations between a human being and an* ***animal****, the act of which may be punishable as a criminal offense.* The word *sodomy* acquired different meanings over time. Under the Common Law, sodomy consisted of anal intercourse. Traditionally courts and statutes referred to it as a "**crime against nature" or as copulation "against the order of nature**." In the United States, the term eventually encompassed oral sex as well as anal sex. The crime of sodomy was classified as **a felony.**

7. Powerful New Video Explores How Agenda 21 Will Affect You

http://thenewamerican.com/reviews/movies/item/12947-powerful-new-video-explores-how-agenda-21-will-affect-you

To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:38:22 PM

Dear Honorable Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I'm here today to plead to you to reconsider holding the special session regarding same sex marriage.

I LOVE being a mother. I'm so proud of man my son Chad has become.

While Chad was in elementary school I suddenly found myself a single mom left to raise him the best that I could. There were many decisions I had to make to help mold his character and guide him through the complications of life in the sometimes nightmarish teen years.

One thing I discovered early on, Chad not only needed my nurturing but also needed a male model to emulate issues that only boys face. We were so blessed to have my parents take us into their home. My father provided that strong male influence Chad needed to be raised right.

All children need to be raised by both father and mother. Two mothers or two fathers cannot provide the complete parental influence needed and so desired by children. Please reconsider the special session and let the people vote on this matter that will influence our children and their future.

Thank you so much for your attention.
Arlene Iwano
1248 Ala Amoamo St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
(808)387-8721

I will be at the Senate hearing on Monday, October 28 to verbally share my testimony.

From: Bobbilyn Akoi
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Same Sex Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:40:00 PM

I' m asking our legislatures to do the right thing by letting the people of Hawaii decide on this bill. A special legislature is too short of a time to decide a major issue such as this. Let the people decide what they want. More discussion needed on how individual rights will be protected. Thank you!

From:	Liz Larson
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Testify in Opposition to SB 1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:47:20 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
For Hearing on Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I believe that the people of Hawaii respect each other's differences and want equality for all. This bill does not support equality for all in that it does not protect the right of conscience and religious liberty for the citizens of Hawaii. In fact this bill does not increase our rights, it decreases our rights as citizens.

I hope that the legislature will not pass this bill, but that they will let the people decide. In the very least, this bill should be brought up in the regular 2014 session, where it will be given due process and properly examined in the proper manner that such an important bill deserves.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Liz Larson
Citizen of Honolulu

--
Liz Larson
Phone: 808-426-7665
www.lizlarson2012.com

From: Patti Yasuhara
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Re: in Person Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:02:06 PM

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony

Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 - Relating to Equality

Patricia A. Yasuhara

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

This is the State of Hawaii's 20 year Anniversary of **Baehr v. Lewin**-
decision by Hawaii Supreme Court against gay marriage that violated the State Constitution.

This bill before us today 20 years later, still violates our State Constitution and our First Amendment under the Bill of Rights.
Congress may not make any law that sets up any religion or interferes with any religious practice.

Under- Religious organizations and facilities-
This bill restricts our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs.
Facilities/Church's for profit services open to the public will NOT be protected in this section.

Under section 572-2 "Marriage for minors"
Allows 15-17yr. old's to marry either gender without parent consent.
Legal guardian age in the state of Hawaii is 18yrs. old. A Judge could allow my child to marry without my consent ,
yet as a parent I'm the legal guardian until the age of 18.

In Researching the 13 Same Sex Marriage States,
I am frightened and concerned about the agenda of the LBGT and the GLSEN organizations that are working in the DOE as early as preschool
to desecrate any freedom of religion and to teach homosexual behavior **with out parent consent.**

Please allow the Legislator's to make Amendments to the State of Hawaii's "Civil Union" Bill to readdress the bill for equality,
not to redefine marriage and reorganize society for one fifth of one percent of the population.

The best way to protect the rights of gays and lesbians is to preserve the constitutional liberties of all citizens.

In the Supreme court case - Grigsby v. Rieb

CONCLUSION
"Our obligation is to define the liberty of all, not to mandate our own moral code." Lawrence v. Texas, 539 U.S. at 571,
quoting Casey, 505 U.S. at 850. **If this Court bypasses the states and the people and proclaims a constitutional right to same-sex marriage,**
it will be destroying the liberty of many Americans by mandating a moral code contrary to their deepest convictions. Amici curiae urges
this Court to rule in favor of Petitioners so as **to protect the religious and other constitutional rights of persons**
who cannot in good conscience affirm same-sex marriage.

There is not a conscience protection for any individual whether faith based or not in this bill.

I ask you then to vote your conscience **Please vote NO** and PLEASE KILL THIS BILL or let "We the People of Hawaii Vote on Marriage Equality Act SB 1"

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Yasuhara

On Oct 23, 2013, at 3:25 PM, JDLTestimony-InPerson wrote:

> Dear Ms. Yasuhara,
>
> Thank you for your email notifying us of your intent to testify in person. If you wish to only submit testimony in person we are happy to accommodate this. However, you will need to sign up on the day of the hearing, Monday, October 28th, 2013. There will be a sign up desk in front of the auditorium.
>
> **If you wish to submit written testimony and testify in person please reply to this email with your written testimony.**
>
> Sincerely,
> Staff of the Judiciary and Labor Committee

> -----Original Message-----
> From: Patti Yasuhara [mailto:pyasuhara@hawaii.rr.com]
> Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:38 PM
> To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
> Subject: in Person Testimony

Dear State of Hawaii,

I'd like an appointment to give a live testimony during special session.

Thank you,

Patti Yasuhara
683 Kumkahi Place
Honolulu, HI 96825

cell- 782-2340 text OK

From: Ruth Brown
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: IN-PERSON TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:28:38 PM

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26 October 2013

• • •

Ruth A, Brown
Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: IN-PERSON TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY OR SAME SEX 28 October 2013 at 10:30 a.m.

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I have been hesitant in writing this testimony. One part of me believes that my elected representatives are loath to listen to their constituents. In others words, I receive a reply thanking me for contacting them, but my views never really are given true consideration. Instead, I get yet another standardized answer about the representative's position. Another part of me is hesitant because in the media and from some government leaders some my fiscal and religious views are associated to words like "radical," "hate" and "terrorist." Still, I realize I must stand and exercise my freedom of speech to protect my freedom of religion and the other freedoms the Founding Father's acknowledged are God-given and not government given. They are in danger of being lost.

If ever there were a time that haste makes waste, this is it. A special session is not the correct venue for the issue of same-sex marriage. These special sessions were designed for times of emergency and disaster which require quick action and we are facing neither. I would encourage the judiciary committee to refuse to bring SB1 up for a vote. If it were to come to the floor, I would ask that the Senate and House vote it down. Delaying action right here and right now is better than enacting a faulty law and forcing Hawaii live with far-reaching unintended consequences and years of litigation. Whatever version of SB1 is presented during this session, there has not been ample time for everyone to consider the ramifications. What we have seen so far curtails our Constitutional right of religious freedom. Lest there be any mistake, that is not freedom from religion, but it is freedom for individuals to practice religion without government infringement or punishment. I recognize that I have no need or right to impose my belief on anyone, but I retain the right to declare the word of God and to express my view that in some things a standard matters to everyone not simply those of my faith. I refuse to have that right legislated away in a week.

This bill, as is happening in other states, will infringe upon our guaranteed freedom of religion. Have no doubts about that. The "safeguard" included is not safe and does not guard. Churches and Individuals will not be allowed exercise their conscience in their places of worship, private businesses and possibly places of employment. Lawsuits and harassment will destroy livelihoods and spirits. Again, this has

happened repeatedly where same-sex marriage has been enacted by the state legislatures. No one should think that it will not happen here. Places of worship and individuals will no longer be allowed to faithfully support the belief that “marriage is ordained of God”-- not the government--and that it consists of one man and one woman. Adoption agencies and organizations affiliated or sponsored by churches will not be allowed to use their standards of belief when determining homes for children, marriage counseling and church-school housing and admissions policies. Public schools will begin, as has happened in others states, to teach same-sex marriage in grades as low as kindergarten. Older grades will expand their safe sex curriculum. In other states, parents do not retain the right to opt out of this education. Parents are being stripped of their responsibility and right to teach morality to their children.

Please do not allow that to happen in Hawaii. This issue is too large to be decided in a week by a body this small. I ask that we be allowed time to examine the issue and be given a thoughtful bill for the people of Hawaii to vote on in 2014. Too often lately, government on the federal or state level has stepped in to “solve” a problem and left us with a minefield of unintended consequences. Please do not allow that to happen today.

Thank you for your service and thank you for allowing us to do what we can and should do,

Ruth A. Brown
87-156 Mamoalii Pl
Waianae, HI 96792

From: J D
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:32:58 PM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting my testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage. I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process and does not give we, the people, sufficient input into the process.

I am particularly concerned that the religious exemption clauses are so sparse. Priest, pastors and churches are exempted under only very limited circumstances. There is no exemption for religious organizations, charities or fraternal societies, nor are there any exemptions for individuals. I am concerned that my First Amendment rights be protected in the process.

Finally, since we voted a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples, the only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide.

Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Blessings,

Jonathan

Jonathan M. Domingo

1113 Waimano Home Road

Pearl City, HI 96782-2618

Phone: (808) 372-9092

Email: jmd808hi@gmail.com

From: Gordon Furtado
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:50:22 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: In Strong Opposition of SB1

Aloha Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am submitting my written testimony in opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people of the State of Hawaii to decide on the issue of marriage. I believe in traditional marriage where a man and a woman are united together. I also support equality for all mankind and religious freedom where we are allowed to express ourselves. The citizens of the State of Hawaii have faced this issue in the past, and have expressed their choice through the democratic process which is what keeps our nation free, where choices of the majority of the people who vote are recognized.

I believe the legislature and Governor Abercrombie are going against the will of the people by holding this special session.

I am opposed to the way this important social issue is being decided virtually in one week and I ask that you please uphold the principles of the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be examined as all other bills through committee hearings which have been the recognized process in the past. These hearings allow the people to voice their opinions in that venue which gives us as your constituents further opportunities in the process that we have known and recognized for years.

We, the people have elected our government officials to serve as our voices. We have a right to express our opinions, expecially one that may affect and change the customs and traditions that we have known for hundreds of years as native Hawaiians and citizens of the United States of America.

A "YES" vote in this special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Gordon K.K. Furtado
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Cindy Connell
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Written Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:08:01 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Aloha, My name is Cynthia Connell.

I have something to say on the matter of this Marriage Equality Bill. I have read it, and what I read in it makes me sad and fear for the future of the family I don't have yet. For my friends children:for all those who aren't well off in the world; And for my future place in it. Therefore I am testifying against this bill.

The very name states that this bill is to give same sex couples the same rights as anyone else, yet they already HAVE them in the state of Hawaii. What I read in this Bill made me very upset. I have never forced anyone to change their beliefs and rights just to suite myself and I will not, Yet I cannot see from this bill, how you are standing for what it portraits. EQUALITY! I CANNOT stand for anyone who forces someone to do something the DO NOT believe in.

I am blessed with a good imagination, yet I do not need it to guess what COULD be done if this bill passes. I only have to look at other states. Yet this bill is different even from those, It is far more harsh and leaves much to interpretation. I only wish to bring up the thing that disturbs me most. This bill states that it will "get rid" of gender specific terms, such as Husband/ wife. What about Mother and Father. We each have both, and I for one want to live in a place where I can still call my mom, Mommy and my Dad, Daddy, And I want that for my children, as well as ALL children! These words might not seem like much to most people, but they have DEEP meaning, especially to a child!

This is one reason why I am against this bill.

Mahalo for listening.

Cynthia Connell
(808) 358-9785

From: Nihaniya Aloha
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I Object to S. B. 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:16:59 PM

I do believe that this Bill is masking a lot of other things that is more than "Same Sex Marriage and Equality." As a mother, if this Bill passes, will I still have the rights of a parent to monitor what types of classes my son is enrolled in? Will I have the Freedom of choice to take my son out of certain subjects if I wish to, without being arrested. Will this Bill protect my rights of Freedom of Speech? Will this Bill force religious leaders into doing something against the faith and belief of that religious leader?

Well, I do believe S.B 1 is masking more things that are hidden under the surface. Including things that is not in light yet. From what I have heard, read, and saw on the News, this Bill reversed discrimination. This Bill is not showing any type of Equality if these parents in other states are being thrown in jail for voicing his or her concern and protecting the welfare of his or her own children. I have been taken out of class when certain subjects arose because my parents did not appreciate the topic of the lesson. Why should the parental rights be any different if this Bill passes? This Bill is bullying citizens.

Now focusing on the subject at hand. There are so many children and youths that are having identity problems already, I think if we instill traditional practices then our youths will have a better foundation. Youths will explore and act as all youths do, BUT the value of Traditional Marriages will always and should always be taught, so when they grow into adulthood they will not be confused.

My name is Nihaniya A. Ludig and I am Hawaiian. I Object to S.B.1.

From:	liane
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	SB1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:39:10 PM

The Senate bill provides no protections for the right of religious parents to remove their children from public school classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of marriage between a man and a woman.

Sent from my iPhone

From: uyemac001@hawaii.rr.com
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Legistative Session for Same Sex Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:41:27 PM

Dear Senators and Represtatives,

How low can society get to this degenerative state, that they want the sacred union of marriage, which I believe should be between and a man and a women. Several years ago, the people of Hawaii voted that marriage is between a man and a women. Does not the voices of the people of Hawaii count? Don't tell me I don't understand! I have a son that is gay. He is a productive citizen. He knows we love him, but disagree with his life style.
Society has deteriorate right under our noses. My Dad and Mom were hard working parents and taught their children good values. I am glad that they are not alive to see the sad state we are in.

As the elected senators and representatives, you will be held accountable for the choices you make that will affect our society. I am concerned not for myself, but am concerned for the future of my children and grandchildren.

Clarence Uyema

From:	Tevita Taumoepeau
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Please STOP this Senate Bill in regards to same-sex marriage!
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:46:12 PM

Marriage is no small matter as you are probably witnessing from both sides that are in favor and opposing this bill. A matter of such great concern needs TIME so that both sides are considered. Right now, the bill is inadequately worded that it does not provide the proper rights for all people in the State of Hawaii.

For me personally, I am in opposition of this bill drafted by Governor Abercrombie for many reasons, religiously, socially and so forth.

Please reconsider the actions that you are about to make.

Sincerely,
Tevita A. Taumoepeau

From: Rosemary Yokota
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strongly Oppose
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:52:47 PM

My name is Dennis Yokota, I live at 716 Lukepane Ave, Apt. 502, Honolulu, HI 96816. I am strongly oppose to this special session that wants to pass Bill SB1. This bill takes away my rights for freedom of religion. This bill should not dictate to me who I should marry and who I have to rent to (public accommodation).

Thank you,
Dennis Yokota

From: Administrator
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Testimony against gay marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:54:36 PM

I am David Fullmer.
I represent the Fullmer family.
I am testifying in regards to S.B. No. 1 and let it be documented that i personally oppose this bill and any fraction thereof.
I am taking this stance for my family, for my community and for all mankind. Marriage is a sacred union between a man and a woman. Families, communities and all of mankind flourish when a mother and father are joined together in marriage.
I appreciate the time you have spent in hearing my postition, which again is opposition to bill S.B. No 1.
Thank you.

David Fullmer

From: roman
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Bill SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:58:22 PM

Aloha Politicians i am emailing concerning bill SB1 i am against this bill and dont support it i feel it infringes on my religious beliefs and find it hard that the lawmakers of this state would put such a burden on its people it is a touchy subject but i also feel it is mockery towards god i appreciate this opportunity to email my testimony Mahalo

From: Nolan Yogi
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Oral Testimony before the Senate Regarding Senate Bill 1 supporting Same Sex Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:19:20 PM

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have submitted written testimony regarding my opposition to Senate Bill 1's recognition of same sex marriage. I oppose this bill for a number of reasons:

A five day session is not enough time to discuss this most controversial issue of our time. No other state is rushing into special session to pass this type of bill. There are 34 states that do permit same sex marriage and hence, we are not isolated in our current law.

There is no exemption in this bill from the Public Accommodation law for people with sincere religious beliefs who choose not to support same sex marriage in any way. Why are business people prohibited from exercising their Constitutional right of freedom of religion and speech?

This bill is only the beginning of an effort by Gay and Lesbian groups to promote, even force their beliefs upon the public, especially in our schools. We need only look to Ontario, Canada to see the results of Same Sex Marriage legislation and its progeny on education mandates for children beginning as early as Kindergarten. Why is this information provided to the public?

There are numerous other reasons to oppose the bill. I wish to present oral testimony in this regard.

Nolan K. Yogi
92-1034 Makakilo Drive, No. 26
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

Sent from Windows Mail

From: Mamasonruhland
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Special Session Oct 28 1030
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:56:42 AM

I would like to testify in person in this special session AGAINST this SB 1 on the day the Hawaii House of Representatives has hearings. What date will this be? Please submit my name for written and in person testimony. I live in Hilo and would like to know ahead of time so I can make travel and work arrangements. My cell phone number is 808 895-3741. Thank you.
Aloha,
Marie Ruhland 28 Makakai Place
Hilo, Hawaii
96720
HD 1

Sent from my iPhone

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:01:12 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Randy
Last Name:	Manley
Email:	randylouise87@yahoo.com

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

I'm also concerned for our Hawaii families and what this bill will do to drastically effect what we now enjoy and cherish. Your "yes" vote will open the door to further redefining marriage in days to come. Today we are debating same sex marriage but what will be the debate concerning marriage 5 years from now? The standard for marriage as being between one man and one women must be upheld and preserved lest we find ourselves in days to come redefining marriage in ways we never anticipated.

Passing this bill would also logically lead to a change in the way that our children are educated. Our public schools would be compelled to teach that alternative lifestyles are to not only be tolerated but also encouraged and celebrated.

In short, the unintended consequences of this bill would have a devastating effect on our island's families, children and overall way of life.

I humbly ask that you, our elected officials, guardians of our state constitution and representatives of the people vote "NO" on SB1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Randolph R. Manley
PO Box 53
Hoolehua, Molokai, HI 96729

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:07:19 AM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Cindy
Last Name:	Clemmer
Email:	clemmercindy@gmail.com
Address 1:	373 Ka Awakea Rd
Address 2:	na
City:	Kailua
State:	HI
Zip / Post Code:	96734
	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be

vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Cindy Clemmer
Kailua, Hi. 96734

From:	Chris Kegans
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Public Testimony Request Chris Kegans
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:09:55 PM

I would like to be put on record for public testimony.

Chris Kegans Testimony for Monday October 28th:

Honorable panel,
This vote in democratic process needs to be given to the people. I*f this is decided in any other way it would go against the foundation that our great country was built on. We need to learn from the mistakes that our fellow states have made in making this decision in haste. This needs to have proper due diligence done to study the effects this will have on our society. By giving this vote to the people it will restore hope that has been lost by the current legislative process. I ask in earnest that all members search their hearts before making this vote. Thank you for your time today.*

Chris Kegans
Kaimuki resident

--

Chris Kegans
3138 Waialae Ave
Honolulu HI 96816
808-225-5174

From: Wendell Lum
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson; lokahi@hotmail.com; drsauer@hotmail.com; Bill Smith
Subject: We only go to one of two places when we die?
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:25:30 PM

WE ARE ALL SINERS AND IF WE CONTINUE TO SIN AND NOT REPENT FOR OUR SINS WE WILL ALL GO TO HELL! OUR LORD WILL KNOW OUR HEARTS AND WITHOUT REPENTING WE CANNOT BE BORN AGAIN? IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE TO GO TO HEAVEN WITH HIM.

MAN ALWAYS MAKE CHANGES TO OUR LAWS AND THE SCRIPTURES IN THE BIBLE, GOD'S WORD. BUT IF IT IS A SIN, IT'S NOT A GOOD THING TO FOLLOW!

Jesus declares that the days just before the Rapture will be like the days of Noah and Lot. However, notice that although those were times of gross immorality, He doesn't even mention that fact. Here are His words: And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the day of the the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all.

Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot, they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son on man is revealed therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Blessing to you,

Wendell

Johnette K. Maielua, Ph.D.

629 Kapaia Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*
Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Johnette Maielua. I am opposed to SB1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because I have several concerns regarding the great impact that this bill will have on our State. At first glance, the language used in SB1 seems to be okay to the average citizen. But upon a close read, there are hidden problems embedded into the document that, I believe, would cause subtle and irrevocable damage to our communities. My hope is to convince those of you who are unsure about supporting this bill to voice your opposition, and those who are in favor of this bill to rethink your support. I will discuss each point separately below.

Public Voice Limitations

I understand that, from time to time, a special session of the legislature is necessary to discuss and make decisions about certain issues. I do think, however, that the issues regarding SB1 are too important and volatile to cram into such a short time period instead of waiting for the regular legislative session in January. Constituent concerns are disregarded because of the short time frame. There are limited opportunities to attend public hearings, to make and submit amendments, to be very sure that what is written in the bill is a true representation of what we, the people, want it to state.

I believe that you, the Legislature, are being pushed into decision making without adequate time to explore the Marriage Equality Act thoroughly, thus limiting the authentic public voice of the people. Hear my voice: I do not support SB 1, the Marriage Equality Act.

Disregard for Voters' Decisions

Another way that our public voice regarding this issue is being ignored is because of the fact that this issue was already voted for and settled upon by the people in 1998. The 1998 amendment defined marriage as between a man and a woman. We, the people of Hawaii, made our choice clear. However, as voters, we gave the legislature limited authority with a specific directive to define marriage for opposite sex couples.

You are our elected officials, yet in this short "special session" you are 1) choosing to limit our public voice via time constraints; 2) limit our opportunities to be heard via one public hearing; and then, just as in 1998, when we are asked for input, you, 3) ignore our voices/decisions. Your actions show arrogance and contempt for your constituents. Remember, you represent us!

Hear my voice: I do not support the SB 1, the Marriage Equality Act. I will support legislation to let the people decide *again* but only without any added amendment that gives reserve power to you, the legislature, to *re*define marriage and undermine our public voice. Please let the people decide!

Religious Freedoms & Public Accommodations

The First Amendment of the Constitution guarantees our religious freedoms. However, the current draft of SB1 does not give adequate protections to religious organizations that welcome the public into their midst for any reason whatsoever. This is the "public accommodations" that are hidden and come into play here.

The language of the bill (Sec.1, 3b) states that religious organizations who use their facilities "for a profit" must also solemnize same-sex marriages. This is a requirement that may go against the beliefs and practices of a religion if the bill is passed, resulting in religious restrictions, and not freedom.

I believe that this bill promotes economic hardship for religious organizations that, not only fulfill spiritual purposes in the community, but social ones as well, many times stepping in for government agencies to fill needs. And we know that the government cannot do everything for all of its citizens. Will the legislature be willing to fund more social and/or work programs that are currently served by religious organizations or provide more funding for unemployment benefits if SB1 is passed?

Impacts on education

Again, another hidden impact of SB1 is on education. The DOE and the state are already strapped for funding. If SB1 is passed, do these entities have the funding to purchase new materials, new texts that are rewritten to reflect the changes in the law? Again, our state can ill afford to do this.

And if a teacher has specific religious beliefs/practices, won't that teacher's religious freedoms be compromised if the law passes and he/she has to teach curriculum that encompasses same-sex marriage? I believe that to pass SB1 would be wrong.

572-C "Parentage Presumptions" Impacts Native Hawaiian Entities

Embedded in section 572-C of the Marriage Equality Act, SB1, is the following phrase, "parentage presumptions based on marriage". To me, this means that all rights, benefits, and protections afforded to Native Hawaiians as the indigenous people of these islands may be also be given to others based upon marriage under SB1, and not just on paternity or maternity—the blood quantum. My people are still having struggles socially and economically in many areas, and now to deal with one more thing, one more layer, one more stroke against us is tantamount to betrayal—again.

Moral Courage vs. Popular Vote

What has been interesting to watch leading up to this special session is the amount of legislators that are now in support of the Marriage Equality Act, SB1. It is interesting because I wonder how many of you are supporting this bill to gain the popular vote instead of doing otherwise. Who has the moral courage to stand and do what is right and good for our state versus to cave in and do what is popular?

Finally, aside from all the items I listed above, I believe that marriage between a man and a woman is a God-given law. The laws of man, as you know, are subject to interpretation, revision, and/or reversal. Proponents for SB1 point to the social ills of abuse and high divorce rates in traditional relationships as a reason to pass this law. I contend that the social ills are due to the individuals and not the institution of traditional marriage itself.

I sincerely urge you: PLEASE, VOTE NO on SB1. Mahalo for your time and commitment to doing what is right for the people in this state.

Johnette K. Maielua, Ph.D.
Hawaii Voter

From:	Annora Ng
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Strongly Oppose SB1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:07:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:
I am strong oppose to Senate Bill 1. I do not support this bill and feel that the religious exemptions are not adequate to protect individuals, churches, organizations, and their affiliates.
I also do not believe that we should have a special session for the following reasons.

I think part of the reason that people want to Let the People Decide is because we don't trust that our voice can be adequately heard. This process shows us that.

1. The Governor is calling a special session out of the regular session. (Which is perfectly within in his ability to do so but why can't he wait two more months for regular session to start?)

2. The Governor contributed to the writing of this bill. Writing bills is outside his branch of government.

3. Special session is limited to the minimum of amount of days to hear the least amount of people. FIVE days max. In order to rush the special session, hearings will need to be held the same day as the reading.

4. No hearings on neighbor islands. If the special session was longer, they could have hearings on neighbor islands or rural areas.

5. We are NINE days away from a special session and the final version of the bill has yet to be released. They also haven't even determined the process.

6. Testimonies will be limited due to the anticipated volume of people testifying.

7. In order to do a oral testimony, a written testimony must be submitted. You'll be given a number and you need to be PRESENT when your number is called in order to testify. If you miss your number, you will lose your ONLY opportunity to testify.

I've testified before and this is NOT the process during a regular session. I walked up to a hearing once and asked to testify and they let me. I did not have to have a written testimony submitted beforehand but I prepared one anyway. I think I spoke for about 10-15 minutes. We would be so lucky if we could get that kind of time during a special session.

Do I feel like democracy is being trampled on and that the legislators are trying to stifle my voice during a special session? YES.

Seriously write your legislators about the process of this special session. They may not be able

to understand our beliefs, values, or religion but I think as legislators, they can understand democracy. They can understand our desire to have our voices heard. They can understand that WE WILL NOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE SILENCED NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT THEY MAKE IT FOR US.

From:	Kari Benes
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	Testimony SB1- OPPOSE. Intention to testify in person.
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:21:01 PM
Attachments:	OpposeSB1_KB.docx

Dear Honorable Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for your patience and hard work on this very contentious matter. My name is Kari Benes and I oppose SB1. This bill diminishes people of faith, churches, property owners, pastors, parents, individuals, by putting them at increased risk of getting bullied, sued, and harassed by the media if they openly disagree with same sex marriages or homosexual lifestyles and fail meet tricky exemptions set forth in this bill. This bill uses equality of same sex marriage as a way to govern religious freedoms.

God's standard of marriage, sex, stewarding of church resources, family, parenting, and relationships, is not equal the policies implied by the authors of this bill, ACLU, or the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. So please protect our constitutional freedom to fully live according to our religious values and standards, by stopping this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
Kari Benes,
Kaimuki Resident

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: swill34124@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:39:24 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Sharon Williams	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY The people have a right to be heard & this special session does not provide the opportunity for all of the public input needed. This bill as written is unconstitutional.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Erica's Gmail
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Re: OPPOSITION to SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:00:55 PM

Erica Vincent

2563 Date Street #102

Honolulu, HI 96826

October 23, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair

The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because, I feel that marriage should legally remain between a man and a woman. I also feel that church and state should remain separate and that religious institutions should have the freedom to deny those that do not practice their standards of marriage to solemnize their marriage.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Erica Vincent

Hawaii Voter

Anne K Fritz
91-555 Pupu Street
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Anne Fritz and I urge you to OPPOSE Special Session SB1: Relating to Marriage.

1. Deciding the outcome of this bill in a special session preempts the democratic process by not allowing for the people of our state to voice our support or opposition to the changes as we did in 1998 when we decided to preserve traditional marriage as "a unique social institution based on the committed union of one man and one woman."

2. I ask the lawmakers of our state to consider this issue better treated by the constitutional amendment process that would allow for due democratic process to take place because the outcome of this bill if passed will be irreversible and affect generations to follow.

3. It is my belief that the current bill will NOT protect church leaders, churches who define marriage as between one man and one woman and individual's rights due to the stipulations in the public accommodations law. What church is not open to the public or encourage interaction with the community around them for marriages or other activities? This would limit church membership and their ability to be a functional part of their communities.

I urge you to vote NO on SB 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Anne K Fritz, Hawaii Voter

From:	CarolinHonolulu@aol.com
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Beverly Antolin In Opposition to S.B. 1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:04:06 PM
Attachments:	Beverly Antolin SB1.wps

Please see testimony attached, in opposition to S.B.1

From:	Patricia Pouha
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	I oppose bill SB1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:15:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

56-424 Pahelehala Lp
Kahuku, Hawaii 96731

Cici Fong

Frederick W. Rohlfing
House District 23
Senate District 11

October 27, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because I believe is contrary to both the unwritten constitution of the people of Hawaii and the written Constitution of the State of Hawaii. Passage of this bill should therefore only be considered following passage and ratification of an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii empowering the legislature to redefine marriage to include a single-gender option.

Marriage during the time of the Kingdom of Hawaii was defined to consist exclusively of one man and one woman. See, e.g., Compiled Laws of the Hawaiian Kingdom (1884), Title 5, Chapter XXVIII, Article LIII. This understanding of marriage has continued in Hawaii up to the present time. This definition is consistent with the marriage laws of over 92% of the nations in the world. Because this understanding of marriage "is made up of men and women, potential and actual mothers and fathers, it is child-centered." William C. Duncan, "Speaking Up for Marriage," 32 *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy* 915, 930 (2009).

> It has served in virtually all human societies to encourage men and women who may create a child to take responsibility for that child and for one another. As such, it is the most effective way for society to promote the child's opportunity to know and be raised by his or her own mother and father. Even those married couples who do not have children as a result of their marriage relationship can still provide a mother and father to those who are otherwise deprived of that opportunity. Married couples who are faithful to one another but who do not have children also promote

> children's best interests by not creating motherless and fatherless children. Finally, marriage promotes the integration of men and women; by treating both as essential to society's most basic and foundational unit, it rejects the idea that men and women, mothers and fathers, are fungible.

Id.

Because marriage is such a fundamental institution of Hawaii society, it can be viewed as a part of the constitution of Hawaii's people. This constitution is spelled with a small "c" because the "term constitution refers both to the institutions, practices, and principles that define and structure a system of government and to the written document that establishes of articulates such a system." Suzette Hemberger, "Constitution," in Joel Krieger, ed., *The Oxford Companion to Politics of the World* (Oxford University Press, 1993), 189.

> [T]he American constitution has been described as a written one, the British, as unwritten. If these words are taken literally, they are incorrect. . . . The truth is that both constitutional systems include portions that have been committee to writing and portions that have not. . . . That certain topics receive written statement, while others are left to informal understanding, is of itself a somewhat trivial difference. What surely matters more is the choice of the content that receives expression in one medium or in the other.

Leslie Lipson, *The Great Issues of Politics: Introduction to Politics* (2d edition, Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1960), 270-71.

When the Hawaii Supreme Court held in 1993 that Hawaii's marriage statute defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman was presumptively unconstitutional under the State Constitution unless the State was able to show a compelling governmental interest justifying the marriage law, the people's response resulted in the Legislature in 1998 passing a constitutional amendment empowering the legislature "to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples." The amendment was ratified by an affirmative vote of almost 70% of the voters.

The actions of the Legislature and the people in passing and ratifying the marriage amendment in 1998 were thus essentially an broadly-based effort to align the written Constitution of the State of Hawaii with the unwritten constitution of Hawaii's people with regard to the definition of marriage.

Many legislators now argue that the legal effect of the 1998 constitutional amendment was solely to give the legislature the <u>option</u> of continuing to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman, while still allowing the legislature the choice of redefining marriage to include a single-gender option. This clearly contradicts the understanding of the people, who were told by the Office of Elections that a "yes" vote would enable the legislature to "reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples only. The Legislature could then

pass a law that would reserve marriage to a man and a woman, overruling the recent Supreme Court decision regarding same-sex couples."

I believe the interpretation now being urged by certain legislators contradicts not only the written Constitution of the State of Hawaii, but more importantly, the unwritten constitution of the people of Hawaii with regard to the definition of marriage.

The people should be allowed to have their say on this issue. Under our State Constitution, the only means whereby the people can directly express their view is through the constitutional amendment process. I therefore believe that S.B. No. 1 should only be considered by the Legislature following passage by the Legislature and ratification by a majority of the voters of an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii empowering the legislature to redefine marriage to include a single-gender option.

I therefore urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1.

Very truly yours,

Frederick W. Rohlfing

From: Kalli Wilson
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:16:22 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I oppose Bill SB1. I vote in defense of a tradition marriage. I vote for the strengthening of the nuclear family which is the framework of a strong society. We are making decision that impact future generations and the more we vote for principles that redefine and weaken that unit, the more we jeopardize their future and the future of this nation.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kalli Wilson
55-345 Pakelo Place
Laie, HI 96762

email: kalliwilson@gmail.com
website: kalli.eoinfo.com

From:	Victor Groves
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Testimony on SB1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:17:46 AM

I am requesting an opportunity to give an oral testimony.

I am opposed to legalizing same sex marriage because I believe it goes against the will of the general population of Hawaii.
There is more.
Aloha Victor Grovea
Po box 860892
Wahiawa HI 96786
808 366-9654

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special session as called by Go Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:19 AM
v. Abercrombie

From: "Yasuko Shiraishi" <yako7s@yahoo.com>

To: Yako7s@yahoo.com
Representative Della Au Belatti Full Headers Printable View

Dear Representative Della Au Belatti,

My appreciation for the number of years for your serving in my district with wisdom and a heartfelt concern for all matters facing the betterment of all significant issues within this district and the State of Hawaii.

My name is Yasuko Shiraishi. I am 82 years of age, living on 1142D Kinau St. for almost 40years. God has blesssed me with good health. I am a retired RN.

My heart is heavy knowing that there is this special session called forth by our Governor.

Because I am older and what the future years are about to happen if the SSM Bill passes, I should not be concerned? I thought about an anology of FIRE and SSM.When the campfire is burning bringing warmth and comfort and if the fire is not sustained properly, it will go out of hand causing havoc. As with the SSM the present situation for a couple experiencing much devotion, fun, and a blissful future will be faced with many problems to follow. My sincere concern comes when the couple begins to think of raising a family-children by adoptiion or surrogate measures? Children are precious and there will be a great deal of educational changes. Some schools are already in the system?

This Friday on Oct 25th 400 UH students signed a petition in favor of SSM. Your name signified that you approved. I am wondering if these students were able to hear the other side of this matter?

Thank you for taking time to read this entry. May you be blessed with God's riches and wisdom to follow the wishes of your constituents for our traditional marriage between a man and a woman.

Respectfully submitted,
Yasuko Shiraishi
Yasuko Shiraishi

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From: Hawaii Defending Marriage
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson; All Reps; senator@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: n Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:19:46 AM

Lauren and Kirk Mcbride

Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

October 23, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair

The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 because it clearly does the opposite of what the majority want. Majority of people living in Hawaii oppose this because it alters traditional marriage values that we voted on. Thank you for your service and your time in addressing this matter.

Lauren and Kirk Mcbride

From:	Hawaii Defending Marriage
To:	All Senators; All Reps; JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:20:58 AM

Camille and Julian Bosgra

Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

October 23, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair

The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. This issue keeps coming up but under different names. Now it's the equality act. Yes we all should be equal and yes every one has their own choice but this clearly takes voices away from the voters who voted. It is the majority and the majority do not want this. We clearly defined this time and time again with our votes and voices what marriage is in HAWAII. Please be our voice; Thank you, aloha Bosgra ohana

From:	Leilani Auna
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Cc:	Auna, Vanley; Leilani Auna
Subject:	FW: Leilani"s testimony
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:22:42 AM

PLEASE SEE THE FORWARDED EMAIL (SEE BELLOW)

Leilani Auna MSW, L.C.S.W.
Counselor/Coordinator Services for Students with Special Needs
Brigham Young University Hawaii Counseling Services
BYUH# 1837
55-220 Kulanui Street
Laie, Hawaii 96762
Office: (808) 675-3999 Fax: (808) 675-3525
Mckay 181G
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From: Leilani Auna
Sent: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:29 AM
To: JDLtestimont-InPerson@capitol.hawaii.gov
Cc: Auna, Vanley; Leilani Auna
Subject: RE: Leilani's testimony

To Whom It May Concern;
My name is Leilani Auna and I am a working mother of eight children who are now young adults. As a young mother I have raised my children to respect other people of different cultures, religious beliefs, and orientation. Having said that, I also taught them values and what is right and wrong. I taught them to love people and respect them.
However, there comes a time when one must stand up for what they know is the truth. I believe that defining marriage as a man and woman. It is important to make that definition so there are no confusion.
My religion has taught me that this is an important concept. If you change that it will infringe on my rights to freedom of religion. This is what makes America truly beautiful.

Do not change the definition. Help us support traditional marriage as a man and a woman.

Respectfully,

Leilani Auna MSW, L.C.S.W.
Counselor/Coordinator Services for Students with Special Needs
Brigham Young University Hawaii Counseling Services
BYUH# 1837
55-220 Kulanui Street
Laie, Hawaii 96762
Office: (808) 675-3999 Fax: (808) 675-3525
Mckay 181G
CONFIDENTIAL NOTICE: This email message is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and delete all copies of the original message. Thank you.

From: DAVID CHARLENE DUNCAN
To: All Reps; All Senators; JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:23:47 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

Same sex marriage goes against my religious beliefs. In asking you to vote against this bill I am asking you to protect my religious freedom. If passed this bill paves the way for discrimination against those who value marriage between a man and a woman. It would change the way our children are taught about marriage and sex education in the schools. Those who don't agree with these teachings because of their religious beliefs will be treated as bigots or ignorant. It would open up our churches to lawsuits if we do not support performing or celebrating same sex marriage, as it would small businesses and marriage counselors.

Also, if passed, this bill will change the very fabric of society in ways that are harmful to us and future generations. It makes us weaker, not stronger. Many studies have shown children (who are our future) grow up to be better more stable people and citizens when raised in a home by their FATHER and MOTHER. They need the influence and guidance from both genders!

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Charlene E. Duncan
95-1027 Kuahewa Street
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Eldean Kukahiko
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Testimony in OPPOSITION of SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:23:18 AM

My testimony regarding SB1, Senator Clayton Hee-Chairman, Committee on Judiciary and Labor hearing on 10/28/13 at 1030.

I am against this bill and here are my concerns:

1. More time is needed to ensure that all Hawaii's citizens' rights are protected. How can this bill be fully analyzed in a five day (rushed) special session called by the governor? Even more troubling is that this bill cannot be amended! Isn't your duty as our elected (by the people of Hawaii) members of the Legislature to defend our constitutional rights and freedoms?
2. Just take a look at some of the other states and the ramifications that they are experiencing. For example, the public schools in Massachusetts, where it has opened up the door for teaching homosexuality. Saying how it is a "normal part of society", which may not be true for everyone. In addition to using books that are explicit and even pornographic to teach homosexual intercourse. As a parent, I am deeply concerned about my rights to oppose this way of teaching. I heard that the schools have no obligation to notify parents or let them opt out their children in regards to the normalization of homosexual relationships to children. Some parents were even arrested for opposing these teachings…what happened to their rights? Is my rights and other parents' rights going to be denied as well?
3. Please fulfill your oaths by voting "no" on SB1 to ensure that future legislation regarding marriage is developed in a constitutional process that guarantees the greatest transparency, with the fullest debate and maximum participation of the electorate. Let the people decide the future of marriage in Hawaii.

Mahalo for taking the time to hear my concerns. Please thoroughly thinks this through before diving into such an important issue.

Mrs. Tabitha Kukahiko, Registered Voter
41-854 Ala Koa Street
Waimanalo, HI 96795

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**
28 Oct 2013 at 10:30 am
I plan to testify in person

Submitted by: Barbara O'Nale 92-6048 Kohi St, Kapolei, HI 96707

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposed to this bill because it is circumventing the normal process a bill should go through.

It is my understanding that the legislature did not have the votes to call a special session. The Governor would not have called a special session if this was not a political agenda he wanted to push. The Democrat Party of Hawaii investigative panel has already shown its bias by recommending reprimand for Sen. Gabbbard and for Rep. Har to be censured for introducing a constitutional amendment on traditional marriage. The panel concluded that the party has a First Amendment right of free association to enforce its membership requirements, and that "they violated the membership requirements of the DPH to the extent that sanctions may be applied to them that affect their membership in the organization…. Sen Gabbard was censored in 2009 for violating the platform on equal rights by actively working against a civil-unions bill." (Honolulu Star-Advertiser 26 July 2013) With Free Speech Week occurring just last week, it is a reminder of how appalling it is that activists have been allowed to elevate a party platform at the expense of the Constitutional Amendment of free speech to express an opposing view, especially when affecting representation of constituents. Richard Borreca in his column on 25 October 2013 in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser states, "Legislators say they are all plowing through a deluge of emails and a constant hum of phone calls, mostly from members of the public opposed." If this is true, is political pressure from threat of censorship and standing in the Democrat Party exerting more influence on a legislator's vote than the view of the constituents who elected them? As this could be any contentious issue, a no vote on this bill in special session would show respect for the normal democratic process of passing a bill and give citizens the confidence that elected officials are not succumbing to political pressure from threats by activists instead of representing them. A yes vote validates this circumventing of the process for activists to use in the future to push an agenda that failed during the regular legislative session.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara O'Nale

FROM THE PERSONAL OFFICE OF Mr. SJ MELENDREZ, PMO
1164 BISHOP ST # 124, HONOLULU, HI 96813
Telephone: 808.693.6301, Email: spm.hawaii@gmail.com

COMMUNIQUÉ' # 131027.SB-1 RESPONSE

TO:	FROM:
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair **Senator S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair** **Committee on Judiciary & Labor**	**Mr. SJ Melendrez**
LOCATION: **Hawaii State Capitol**	**DATE:** **10/27/2013**
FAX NUMBER:	**TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:** **(3)**
PHONE NUMBER: **808.536.7330**	**EMAIL ADDRESS:** **JDLTestimony-InPerson@capitol.hawaii.gov**
REASON: **RESPONSE TO BILL SB-1 FOR PERSONAL TESTIMONY, STATE CAPITOL 10/28/2012**	**CC:**

X Urgent ☑ **For Review** ☐ **Please Comment** ☐ **Please Reply**

Dear Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Honorable Senator S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Thank you for your dilligent service to the people of Hawaii, in Service of the State Senate, we appreciate all you are doing and continue to do for the people. This is regarding SB-1, which is before the TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, INTERIM OF 2013 Special Session.

I have a small business, just like the thousands of small businesses across Hawaii, which are the backbone of the revenue generating source in Hawaii, feeding our families, paying the bills, taxes and growing a healthy Hawaii. I am honored not only to be in business but to sit on the board of directors for non-profit groups in the State, providing leadership, advisement on revenue generation and risk management.

Like many of the business owners and managers across Hawaii, there are many questions concerning the impact of SB-1 to the State and the People of Hawaii. Whenever I speak with colleagues from the Rotary, Kiwanis organizations, the speak with colleagues of the Plaza Club, the Honolulu Club or the Oahu Club and in the meetings of the non-profit groups, there are many unanswered questions concerning SB-1 which cause concern among the business owners and leaders in Hawaii.

The concerns in part are generated from the lawyers which bring onto the table the issues of the constitutionality of the bill - how it may conflict with first amendment rights. The questions of when in 1998 when the people gave the Hawaii legislature the authority to define marriage as between 1 man and 1 woman (only), not to define marriage in whatever way they decide. In the way that the Marriage Equality bill is presented as a "Civil Rights" issue, when it is not a civil rights issue but it is a sexual preference. I am a minority, I cannot change my ancestry or ethnicity because it was not an act of my volition but sexual preference is a decision not an irrevocable issue.

Further concerns is what will SB-1 do to the economy if it passes. Research has revealed that in review of the other (13) states in the mainland which has adopted gay marriage in 1 form or another that it has had negative effects on the economy in health, services, legal and law enforcement.

Other concerns about SB-1 are the basis for it. The basis for it according to the bill is that the federal government does not recognize civil unions for reciprocal benefits equally to marriage. But the state of Hawaii has already done its best in civil unions to provide same rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities under the law as afforded to opposite sex couples who marry. Therefore in the Obama administration wanted to provide reciprocal benefits, the president with 1 short executive order, recognize Civil Unions for reciprocal benefits and which would be a huge cost and cultural savings to the state.

In my business I consult to the government and to businesses in contracts and compliance. Many of my office hours are around compliance, so I ask the question, is SB-1 compliant to be considered to be a law?

- Does the legislature have enough information to make informed decisions?
- Have all the questions been answered?
- Has the will of the people taken into consideration from previous voting?
- What is the impact upon the economy of Hawaii if SB-1 passes?
- What will be the cultural changed if SB-1 passes and becomes a law.

In the State of Hawaii before a building structure is built the developer must go thru a series of steps to receive approval. Some of these steps include a environmental impact studies, archeological studies, cultural studies and others before their permit to build is approved.

In the same fashion the consensus is that if the State wants to consider SB-1 that it is recommended that an cultural, financial, legal and educational impact studies be conducted prior to consideration of SB-1 for a vote of the legislature. Or before providing the opportunity for a vote to be brought before the people of Hawaii.

In this way the legislature and the people will have the information they have to make informed decisions. This is critical to the health of the people of Hawaii, the financial and the legal system in Hawaii. There are too many opened ended and unanswered questions concerning SB-1 and since Hawaii via the Civil Unions law has already done our part, it is recommended to put a hold on SB-1 until such time that studies can be provided to the legislature for the people to provide the forecasted impact to the legal, cultural, financial and educational systems in Hawaii if a "Marriage Equality" bill is submitted for consideration.

I submit for your consideration to place SB-1 in abeyance until the cultural, financial, legal and educational impact studies can be conducted and presented to the legislature and to the people of Hawaii for consideration.

Thank you very much for allowing me to present the above for your consideration.

Best Regards:

Mr. & Mrs. S.J. Melendrez
1164 Bishop St # 124
Honolulu, Hawaii 97813
email: drsjmel@gmail.com

–

PICTURES FROM ONE OF OUR NON PROFIT EVENTS, FREE, FAMILY FUN.

–

Adrienne Lee
1012A 9th Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because:

1. I support the definition that marriage is between a man and a woman. This legislation goes against the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and woman in the Hawaii constitution. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively.

2. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion. Religious organizations will not be required to host same sex marriage celebrations if they meet the requirements of the state but not according and in respect to personal religious beliefs. Further this bill would prevent churches from holding events of community outreach with the fear that their facility would then be compelled to host events not keeping with their religious/moral beliefs.

3. It will introduce a new educational curriculum for K-12 grades that will present same-sex marriages and relationships to school children and youth. Separation of church and state bar teachers from referencing God in public schools. If religious references are excluded from being taught in public schools, then same-sex marriages and relationships should likewise not be taught in public schools. The current legislation should respect all parties concerned.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne Lee
Hawaii Voter

From: makalani2722@hawaii.rr.com
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Testimony on Same Sex Marriage Bill
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:27:28 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage. A special session is simply not enough time to adequately discuss the most controversial issue of our time and which will have grave consequences from this day forward to our children and all who follow. I oppose the special session because in 1998, we, the people, believed that the constitutional amendment defined marriage as between a man and a woman. Marriage is not a civil right as defined by any court, including the U.S. Supreme Court. Furthermore, the so-called religious protection clauses in the current bill do not protect any individuals First Amendment rights, including the freedom of speech and freedom of religion. This bill should not violate our First Amendment right to freely practice our religious beliefs even if such beliefs do not endorse the homosexual lifestyle.

As a previous member of the military, I know all too well the sacrifices we have gone through to protect these rights as we continue to fight for them daily.

Therefore, the only right, democratic thing to do is to let the people decide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Tammy L. Lorenzo
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: drbybee@gmail.com on behalf of Dave Bybee
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Testimony opposing the marriage bill
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:27:02 PM

My name is Dave Bybee. I am a resident of Laie. The marriage bill being proposed in the upcoming special session is of great concern to me for many reasons. Here are just a few:

1) the process (a rushed special session with limited input)

2) the incredibly weak religious exemptions

3) most importantly, the attempt to redefine marriage.

A matter of such enormous consequence should not be hastily decided by a small group of people (the legislature). It should be taken to the enormous body of people who will be most affected by it. We, the people of Hawaii, should be the ones to decide on this and take responsibility for that decision.

If we are going to base this decision on the need for benefits then let's not be selective in our discussion of benefits. Let’s include a discussion on what sort of benefits children (and society) get from the traditional institution of marriage. According to millennia of experience and a great deal of sound research, marriage between a man and a woman it is not just a nice option, it is the best scenario we know of, and some have argued that it is essential for the healthy development of children. This shouldn’t be about what some socially innovative adults want to try. It should be about what our children need.

I ask that you, as my elected representatives, hear my voice and vote against this bill or recommend that this decision be placed where it belongs, in the hands of the people.

Dave Bybee

Laie, Hawaii 96762

To: THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

From: Leslie Jones, constituent

Re: Hearing on SB1 scheduled for Monday, October 28, 2013 10:30 a.m

Testimony in opposition to Same-sex marriage bill SB#1 "Relating to Equal Rights"

Thank you Senator Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor.

My name is Leslie Jones and I am here to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1, but perhaps not for the reasons you might think. At the heart of this bill is an honorable idea, a concept that we hold dear and indeed foundational as a nation and as people of the Aloha Spirit here in Hawaii, the idea that all persons are created equal. While supporting this idea is a noble pursuit, I submit to you that in its attempt to do so, this measure misses the mark.

The notion that we are all created equal is an absolute truth, but equality must not be confused with sameness. Men and women are created equal, but we realize this does not mean they are the same. They are biologically different, and express their needs and wants in different ways. In the same manner, Hawaii's citizens are all created equal, but at the same time are individually different from one another, each with unique wants and needs. The tradition of our nation and our culture has always sought to honor these differences. This bill on same-sex marriage attempts to honor equality among Hawaii's citizens, but in doing so, confuses equality with sameness.

Marriage as an institution has a unique history and purpose under the law. Marriage was not created by government; it is a religious institution, a specific expression of religious freedom. Government did not create marriage, and therefore does not have the authority to define it; it accepts the definition given by we the people to whom all government in America is accountable. By sacred definition, marriage is lifelong commitment between a man and a woman, for the express purpose of representing and expressing Biblical values. Government comes alongside marriage and codifies it as an institution because the citizens agree that marriage serves a valuable function in society. But a society cannot function effectively when it seeks to dismantle and rearrange the foundations on which it was built. We see this today in the fragmentation of our ohana, in the confusion of our young people as to whom they should emulate, in the anger, frustration, and impatience of our daily lives. If we are to regain our way of self-governance, we must reunite ourselves with the foundational worldview that can effectively handle our fragmentation and confusion, the worldview on which our nation was founded.

Today's debate is not about same-sex marriage. We can all agree that every American citizen has the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The problem is that we are trying to separate those rights from their source, and in so doing are debating about who and what is considered sacred. All of us are created with the desire to unite in and with something greater than ourselves, and in our culture,

one of the highest expressions of this is the commitment expressed by two people in marriage. But why marriage? What difference does it make what we call the committed union of two hearts? Because there is something about marriage that we all recognize as sacred, as extra-special, as beyond the ordinary relationship, as something that gives us all hope. For anyone who has ever witnessed or participated in the marriage ceremony of close friends or family, no doubt you can relate to their feelings of exuberant joy. They are contagious. ☺ And rightfully so. We are endowed by our Creator with these feelings and desires. But therein lies the problem. WE try to rush past the Source of these gifts to the gifts themselves. It's as if our children at Christmas were to ignore the source of the gifts we give them just to get to the gifts alone, in the process ignoring us and the love, the aloha with which we gave those gifts. What sense does it make to separate the giver and the gift? The gift then loses its meaning as an expression of the relationship between the giver and the receiver. It stops being special.

Marriage IS special. WE are each special. And this is so because the Source, the Giver, is special. The Source of marriage and of our gifts of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The Source that is larger than all of us, the Source of the Aloha Spirit, and the Source that the institution of marriage is designed to honor. The Source Who created all of us and made us special. That source is not government. Government did not create marriage. Marriage comes from the Source of all life as a symbol of the larger-than-life union between that Source and us. Government did not define that special union; it only has the authority to embrace it.

So, Let us honor that which is sacred. Let us honor our Source. And let us do so in a way that respects the Source's definition of marriage.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From:	Alisa Beach
To:	All Reps; All Senators; JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:28:17 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. Freedom of religion is one of the foundational rights of our country. Many of our founding father's were here because they or their families were seeking religious freedom. To introduce legislation that inhibits our country's most basic freedoms will declare to the world that The United States of America is no longer a free country. Any legislation that is passed by our representatives should have our rights clearly articulated within it. It should be made clear that not a single individual, group, or institution will be legally forced to do anything outside of their religious or moral code.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. It is completely inappropriate for you as our representatives to take our freedoms into your own hands and throw them away without any regard for the people you are representing. It is not your place to use the power you have been entrusted with, by the people, to make decisions based on your own will or desires. Your vote is meant to be a representation of the will of the people. The fact that you are voting on such an important issue without hearing the voices of your community shows a blatant disregard for your responsibilities and duties to our town, our county, our state, and our country. This special session is a completely inappropriate abuse of the power you have been entrusted with. I am asking you to remember the people, every man, woman, and child, who's freedoms and rights have been given to you. I am asking you to do the job that you were elected to do and protect our freedom.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Alisa Karen Beach,
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	williamsm081@hawaii.rr.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:40:08 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Mark Williams	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY The people have a right to be heard & this special session does not provide the opportunity for all of the public input needed. This bill as written is unconstitutional.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

October 26, 2013

To : The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

From: Lily Ong

Re : Strong Opposition to SB1 (Same-sex Marriage Bill) and
Special Session on Oct.28, 2013 at 10:30am in State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Chairperson Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committee of the Judiciary and Labor:

Firstly, I strongly oppose to this special session being called for the issue of Same-sex Marriage (SB1) in this economic hard time and unnecessarily spend taxpayers' money.

Same-sex marriage bill should not be passed in a special session because of the following reasons to be briefly stated, most certainly there are still many other reasons:

1.) A five-day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time.

2.) No amendments can be made to the legislation. As a result, true democracy is made a mockery.

3.) Hawaii is the only state rushing into this special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision. If the need was truly dire, then why have not the other 34 states that do not permit same-sex marriage done so?

4.) A "yes" vote during the special session is a "no" vote to democracy because the voice of the people is NOT heard in a five-day special session, specially if that voice is to "amend the bill".

5.) In 1998, the people of the beautiful Aloha State voted and approved a constitutional amendment that gave the Legislature the power to define marriage as being between a man and a woman. Senators, I ask you to kindly acknowledge that the majority of voters do not want marriage to be re-defined now. I respectfully and earnestly ask you to please reject the same-sex "marriage' bill in a special session and work toward allowing the people to decide to define marriage by constitutional amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Lily Ong

From: P. Charlene Matsuzaki
To: All Reps; All Senators; JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Testimony SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:32:24 PM

Perrine Matsuzaki

1720 Huna Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair

The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

1. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.

2. It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.

3. It denies the most core institution of society, marriage between a born-man and a born-woman.

4. It fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits.

5. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits.

6. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members from lawsuits.

7. It trashes Native Hawaiian ethnicity by extending the parentage rights that would transfer Native Hawaiian ethnicity to non-Native Hawaiian individuals.

8. It will tax Hawaii taxpayers with costs for divorce, annulment and separation proceedings of same-sex couples married in the State, but who do not live in Hawaii returning to Hawaii courts to do those proceedings.

9. It will debilitate our children and youth with new educational curriculum for K-12 grades that will present same-sex marriages and relationships to schools.

10. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language “reserve marriage” indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively.

11. It does not give sufficient time for the State of Hawaii to change processes, policies and practices to abide by the new law and puts the State at risk for lawsuits because it will not be able to comply with the new law because of its effective date of November 18, 2013.

12. It does not offer Neighbor Island individuals the opportunity to present testimony in person because of its process is fast-tracked.

13. It will not be referred to other appropriate legislative committees who are responsible to the citizens of Hawaii to vet legislation. It should be referred to the following committees: Hawaiian Affairs, Tourism and Hawaiian

Affairs, Human Services, Finance. Education and Consumer Protection and Commerce. Citizens and stakeholders will not be able to testify in these committees to inform lawmakers about the far-reaching societal, economic and operational impact of the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

14. It does not provide a way to finance implementation costs to the State nor individual counties.

15. It excludes other types of couples (ie. related individuals) from legal marriage while granting certain rights and benefits that are presently only available to married couples to them. These couples will have legal standing to challenge the law.

16. It disintegrates the core unit of our society namely the family defined with a father, a mother and their children.

17. It corrupts the individual's thoughts and actions.

18. It putrefies our society to its downfall.

19. It demonstrates desperation and fear from whiners who did not get their way back in 1998.

20. Let the people choose, don't be afraid.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

signature upon request

Perrine Matsuzaki

Hawaii Voter

From: Sheldon Lacsina
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: IN PERSON TESTIMONY
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:34:35 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1 and am requesting an in person testimony.

I oppose this bill due to the lack of the democratic process. The majority of Hawaii DOES NOT WANT SAME SEX MARRIAGE as a law. The ramifications of this law has not been well thought through, religions are not protected fairly, businesses are not protected fairly, the term "neutral gender" produce unseen consequences, and rushing this bill through will have negative consequences for sure...just do the research with the states that have passed this law.

Yes, in 1998, we voted to "grant the Hawaii State Legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples," only because that's what was worded. It should've said, "Marriage in the state of Hawaii is reserved between one man and one woman." But it was worded that way so that you could do what you're doing today, which is not how our constitution works.

If you want marriage equality, it will not happen between same sex couples because that's not what a marriage is. If anything, work on Civil Unions better, not redefine what marriage is, which imposes a belief to those who believe in the sanctity of marriage.

This is not the best way to go about the most critical issue facing our time. You know as well as I do, the way it's being done and the way the bill is worded, VIOLATES THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sheldon Lacsina
Kea'au, Hawaii 96749
DISTRICT 4

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

RE: Bill# SB1

Hearing: Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium of State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am voicing my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to vote on the issue of marriage. I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I am in support of equality for all…including the rights of conscience and religious freedom (1st Amendment).

I am opposed of how the most controversial social issue in our history is being decided in just one week! I am asking that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being overlooked in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy - Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Put this on the ballots and let the people of Hawaii decide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Francine Cabbab
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From: Darren Wong
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong Opposition to SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:45:43 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Darren Wong and I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I was born and raised here in Honolulu and have chosen to raise my family in these beautiful islands where we enjoy great diversity of cultures and people. I am opposed to this bill primarily because it seeks to redefine the definition of marriage in a way that would ultimately harm the family and society as a whole. The definition of marriage as between one man and one woman has been central to cultures and societies throughout the world for thousands of years.

Redefining the definition of Marriage is one of the most important issues that the people of Hawaii will ever face, and it is being pushed through a special session where there will be very little opportunity to properly discuss and examine the far reaching effects that this bill will have on the social fabric of this state. The democratic process is being completely disregarded and the voice of the people must be heard on these important issues.

I am currently serving as a lay minister for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. While I cannot speak for the church, I know that most, if not all, of the church members that I have spoken with feel the same way that I do on these issues. As the Stake President of the Honolulu Stake I preside over 9 wards or congregations in geographic locations from Hawaii Kai to downtown Honolulu, representing nearly 6,000 members.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Darren Wong
3241A Pawaina Place
Honolulu, HI 96822

Sent from my iPad

Clayton Hee, Chair
Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Monday, October 28, 2013 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol Auditorium
RE: SB1 – Relating to Equal Rights (In Opposition)

Chairman Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today in strong opposition to SB1.

Through reports from the media, most of you have taken a position on this bill and for many of you, this is simply a matter of giving a recognized group of people the right to marry.

But look around you, many of us here today see same sex marriage as a moral issue, not a civil rights issue. Unfortunately, like many moral issues, the people of Hawaii are split over what is right and wrong. Our political system says you are elected to represent the people but how can you do that when we are so sharply divided over this issue? In today's world, there is a great deal of confusion when it comes to matters of truth, meaning, morality, our origin, and our destiny.

I am convinced that many of you who support SB 1 truly believe you are doing the right thing. However, I am concerned about the longer term consequences of this decision in our society and the impact it will have on our children.

As parents and lawmakers, we have a great responsibility to the next generation. Throughout my life, I have been asked to be tolerant of other people's beliefs. Up to now, this tolerance has had little to no impact on my belief system, my parental rights and authority over my children and the education of them.

Unfortunately, as we look to the impact that same sex marriage has had in societies where this has been legalized, we see parental authority undermined overtly and in subtle ways. In the spirit of providing a safe and tolerant environment for children in our schools the ability to express religious beliefs is suppressed in fear of being labeled as intolerant. In many ways, the message that will be delivered to our children is that a belief system based upon God is wrong and in turn, that their parents are wrong to teach those belief systems.

I am saddened that we are raising a generation to value material possessions, live a life without faith except in oneself, and deciding what is right and wrong based on what is legal and illegal or that right and wrong is left up to the individual to decide. Is this the legacy we really want to leave for our children?

These are large questions that many of us have not had time to ponder and discuss with each other. I ask that you not pass SB1 if only to give the people of Hawaii time to ponder these type of questions and time to be able to determine what we stand for and not simply what we are against.

Thank you for your service and the opportunity to testify to you.

From: Rev. Kerry Grogan
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Christian Pastor in strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:09:00 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing as a Christian pastor in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

As a wife, mother, Christian and pastor I affirm the importance of marriage, commitment, and most of all love. Churches will always have freedom of religion as a basic right of the constitution. However, I strongly affirm that freedom of religion doesn't include the right to dictate my religious values to the state.

As a pastor when someone wants to have a religious ceremony I have the right to marry them or not, based on my moral beliefs and values, and the couple's fitness or readiness for marriage, SB1 will not change that. As a Protestant I cannot demand a Catholic wedding, without certain processes required by the Catholic Church. I have more conservative colleagues that will not marry couples who have been living together, this is their right. But when it comes to "the law of the land" the Bible or any one religious group's morality does not get to dictate the law.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rev. Kerry Grogan
610 Uluoa St
Kailua, HI 96734

Johnette K. Maielua, Ph.D.

629 Kapaia Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*
Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Johnette Maielua. I am opposed to SB1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because I have several concerns regarding the great impact that this bill will have on our State. At first glance, the language used in SB1 seems to be okay to the average citizen. But upon a close read, there are hidden problems embedded into the document that, I believe, would cause subtle and irrevocable damage to our communities. My hope is to convince those of you who are unsure about supporting this bill to voice your opposition, and those who are in favor of this bill to rethink your support. I will discuss each point separately below.

Public Voice Limitations

I understand that, from time to time, a special session of the legislature is necessary to discuss and make decisions about certain issues. I do think, however, that the issues regarding SB1 are too important and volatile to cram into such a short time period instead of waiting for the regular legislative session in January. Constituent concerns are disregarded because of the short time frame. There are limited opportunities to attend public hearings, to make and submit amendments, to be very sure that what is written in the bill is a true representation of what we, the people, want it to state.

I believe that you, the Legislature, are being pushed into decision making without adequate time to explore the Marriage Equality Act thoroughly, thus limiting the authentic public voice of the people. Hear my voice: I do not support SB 1, the Marriage Equality Act.

Disregard for Voters' Decisions

Another way that our public voice regarding this issue is being ignored is because of the fact that this issue was already voted for and settled upon by the people in 1998. The 1998 amendment defined marriage as between a man and a woman. We, the people of Hawaii, made our choice clear. However, as voters, we gave the legislature limited authority with a specific directive to define marriage for opposite sex couples.

You are our elected officials, yet in this short "special session" you are 1) choosing to limit our public voice via time constraints; 2) limit our opportunities to be heard via one public hearing; and then, just as in 1998, when we are asked for input, you, 3) ignore our voices/decisions. Your actions show arrogance and contempt for your constituents. Remember, you represent us!

Hear my voice: I do not support the SB 1, the Marriage Equality Act. I will support legislation to let the people decide *again* but only without any added amendment that gives reserve power to you, the legislature, to *re*define marriage and undermine our public voice. Please let the people decide!

Religious Freedoms & Public Accommodations

The First Amendment of the Constitution guarantees our religious freedoms. However, the current draft of SB1 does not give adequate protections to religious organizations that welcome the public into their midst for any reason whatsoever. This is the "public accommodations" that are hidden and come into play here.

The language of the bill (Sec.1, 3b) states that religious organizations who use their facilities "for a profit" must also solemnize same-sex marriages. This is a requirement that may go against the beliefs and practices of a religion if the bill is passed, resulting in religious restrictions, and not freedom.

I believe that this bill promotes economic hardship for religious organizations that, not only fulfill spiritual purposes in the community, but social ones as well, many times stepping in for government agencies to fill needs. And we know that the government cannot do everything for all of its citizens. Will the legislature be willing to fund more social and/or work programs that are currently served by religious organizations or provide more funding for unemployment benefits if SB1 is passed?

Impacts on education

Again, another hidden impact of SB1 is on education. The DOE and the state are already strapped for funding. If SB1 is passed, do these entities have the funding to purchase new materials, new texts that are rewritten to reflect the changes in the law? Again, our state can ill afford to do this.

And if a teacher has specific religious beliefs/practices, won't that teacher's religious freedoms be compromised if the law passes and he/she has to teach curriculum that encompasses same-sex marriage? I believe that to pass SB1 would be wrong.

572-C "Parentage Presumptions" Impacts Native Hawaiian Entities

Embedded in section 572-C of the Marriage Equality Act, SB1, is the following phrase, "parentage presumptions based on marriage". To me, this means that all rights, benefits, and protections afforded to Native Hawaiians as the indigenous people of these islands may be also be given to others based upon marriage under SB1, and not just on paternity or maternity—the blood quantum. My people are still having struggles socially and economically in many areas, and now to deal with one more thing, one more layer, one more stroke against us is tantamount to betrayal—again.

Moral Courage vs. Popular Vote

What has been interesting to watch leading up to this special session is the amount of legislators that are now in support of the Marriage Equality Act, SB1. It is interesting because I wonder how many of you are supporting this bill to gain the popular vote instead of doing otherwise. Who has the moral courage to stand and do what is right and good for our state versus to cave in and do what is popular?

Finally, aside from all the items I listed above, I believe that marriage between a man and a woman is a God-given law. The laws of man, as you know, are subject to interpretation, revision, and/or reversal. Proponents for SB1 point to the social ills of abuse and high divorce rates in traditional relationships as a reason to pass this law. I contend that the social ills are due to the individuals and not the institution of traditional marriage itself.

I sincerely urge you: PLEASE, VOTE NO on SB1. Mahalo for your time and commitment to doing what is right for the people in this state.

Johnette K. Maielua, Ph.D.
Hawaii Voter

From: Mika Mulkey
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:16:38 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Mika Mulkey and I'm just one of many, from the Big Island, who support Marriage Equality, here in the State of Hawai'i.

Hawai'i is best known for its values: Aloha, 'Ohana, Lokahi, Kuleana, & Pono:

- Aloha, a spirit of unconditional love. The feeling of aloha has left everlasting impressions on our kama'aina and malihini for centuries and is what attracts everyone to our islands. By opposing this bill, our state will convey a wrongful message to the world, that Hawai'i does NOT support Aloha for ALL, but just for heterosexual couples.
- 'Ohana, an important value in our quest to achieve Aloha. Ohana isn't restricted to those of blood relation, but to whom we choose to call our family. Nowhere in our history did our kupuna state, that an 'ohana requires a man and a woman to nurture our keiki because they knew, what was needed is love, discipline, compassion and respect.
- Lokahi, the value of teamwork. By working together, we can achieve more. This can relate to this very issue today because after 20 years, Hawai'i has NOT been able to demonstrate the ability to achieve unity. Supporting this bill ensures that ALL people of Hawai'i, will be protected from discrimination.
- Kuleana, sense of responsibility. It is OUR kuleana to ensure that everyone in our state is granted the same equal rights and that we instill, in our future generation: tolerance and acceptance of everyone, regardless of whom they choose to love. It is my kuleana to remind you of this.
- Pono, the value of integrity and balance. Hawai'i will NOT be able to progress into the future until ALL things are right for ALL its people.

So I ask you today, to vote in support of Marriage Equality, because not only do ALL people in Hawai'i, deserve the freedom to marry whom they love, but because it is their kuleana to pass on OUR values of love, family, unity, compassion, and belongingness to the next generation. These values are NOT limited to just heterosexual couples; in fact they apply to ALL people of Hawai'i.

President Barack Obama once stated, "Nothing can stand in the way of the power of millions of voices calling for change." Today, the people of Hawai'i are calling for change and will NOT stop until the true meaning of Aloha (Always Loving Others Here & Always) is observed and practiced by EVERYONE the sun touches on OUR 'aina.

Mahalo for your time.

Mika Mulkey
11-3585 Plumeria Street
Mountain View, HI 96771

From: Janell Yim
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: OPPOSITION TO SB1 The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act 2013
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:18:48 PM

JANELL YIM
3270 PAWAINA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96822

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present at the hearing, therefore; I am submitting my written testimony.
*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,
I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.
RESEARCH FINDINGS SHOW LACK OF "TOLERANCE" WITH GAY MEN TOWARDS TRANSGENDERS OF THE MALE TO FEMALE POPULATION:
While working on my Masters of Social Work degree at the University of Hawaii-a colleague and I decided to do a qualitative research on the transgender (TG) -male to female population, Our primary purpose of this research was to find what kinds of oppression the TG's faced and how we as social workers can provide tools that empower them through these challenges. (Note: my colleague is a lesbian and a dear friend of mine ever since we met at the School of Social Work) To our surprise, our findings showed something quite disturbing. Here is what we discovered.
All of those who were interviewed passionately expressed that they have been discriminated the most amongst gay men than any other population (heterosexuals, women, and straight men). They continued expressing how some of these gay men would at times let them know that they were a disgrace to the male gender. They also stated that they were treated with malice, bigotry, cruelty, hatred, embarrassment and shame. What is interesting about this finding is the fact that these gay men have also felt and experienced the harming effects of "intolerance", yet they were now displacing this same type of inhumane behavior on this transgender population. You would think there would be some empathy and "tolerance" to what these gay men have experienced.
IS IT REALLY ABOUT "EQUAL RIGHTS" AND THE ISSUE OF "INTOLERANCE"?
SOMETHING TO REALLY PONDER AND EXAMINE.

Tolerance, Same-Sex Marriage and Religious Freedom.

Dallin H. Oaks, a former Utah Supreme Court Judge, in 2013 awarded the prestigious Canterbury Medal for his lifetime of service in promoting the cause of religious freedom and presently a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints stated.
'Those who favor homosexual marriage contend that "tolerance" demands that they be given the same right to marry as heterosexual couples
Tolerance obviously requires a non-contentious manner of relating toward one another's differences. But tolerance does not require abandoning one's standards or one's opinions on political or public policy choices. Tolerance is a way of reacting to diversity, not a command to insulate it from examination.
The Church does not condone abusive treatment of others and encourages its members to treat all people with respect. However, speaking out against practices with which the Church disagrees on moral grounds – including same-sex marriage – does not constitute abuse or the frequently misused term "hate speech.".. But today's politically palatable definition insists that unless one accepts the "sin" he does not tolerate the "sinner". We can

express genuine love and friendship for the homosexual family member or friend without accepting the practice of homosexuality or any re-definition of marriage.

Legalizing same-sex marriage will affect a wide spectrum of government activities and policies. Once a state government declares that same-sex unions are a civil right, those governments almost certainly will enforce a wide variety of other policies intended to ensure that there is no discrimination against same-sex couples. This may well place “church and state on a collision course.”

The prospect of same-sex marriage has already spawned legal collisions with the rights of free speech and of action based on religious beliefs. For example, advocates and government officials in certain states already are challenging the long-held right of religious adoption agencies to follow their religious beliefs and only place children in homes with both a mother and a father. As a result, Catholic Charities in Boston has stopped offering adoption services.

Other advocates of same-sex marriage are suggesting that tax exemptions and benefits be withdrawn from any religious organization that does not embrace same-sex unions. Public accommodation laws are already being used as leverage in an attempt to force religious organizations to allow marriage celebrations or receptions in religious facilities that are otherwise open to the public. Accrediting organizations in some instances are asserting pressure on religious schools and universities to provide married housing for same-sex couples. Student religious organizations are being told by some universities that they may lose their campus recognition and benefits if they exclude same-sex couples from club membership.

Many of these examples have already become the legal reality in several nations of the European Union, and the European Parliament has recommended that laws guaranteeing and protecting the rights of same-sex couples be made uniform across the EU. Thus, if same-sex marriage becomes a recognized civil right, there will be substantial conflicts with religious freedom. And in some important areas, religious freedom may be diminished." ("The Divine Institution of Marriage"-Dallin H. Oaks)

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,
Janell Yim
Hawaii Voter

(Testimony written by concerned citizen, Lenora Cossey-Taft)

SB1 Equal Rights Relating to Equal Rights

Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Thank-you for your 2013 legislature accomplishments. I'm letting you know I do not agree with the governor's Special Session scheduled for 26 October 2013. The majority of our population is being forced to give a minority of individuals the power to control traditional family values. What has been happening in other countries and American states that have enacted Same Sex Marriage laws is obviously enough evidence to warn against the loss of freedom for parents to protect and train their children to experience healthy lifestyles.

Religious freedom and liberty are obviously not being protected in areas of the world that have Same Sex Marriage laws. Instead reverse discrimination is being experienced against the majority of the population that continues to honor the institution of marriage between a man and a woman. People of faith are especially being targeted by individuals intentionally forcing their lifestyles on others.

Please vote NO to the governor's efforts to rush enacting this law, limiting public input, and failing to recognize the destructive consequences to families which are already overwhelmed with the difficulties of effective parenting. Government officials must honor the people they represent. Each legislature member who votes in favor of this bill will be held accountable for future generations loosing sacred American freedoms.

Thank-you very much!

Susan Morrison
1617 S. Beretania St. #407
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826-4271

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I am not able to be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because this bill infringes on our first amendment rights to freely live our religion.

I have lived in Hawaii for the past 35 years. I know people that are gay and have friends who have friends that are gay. I have been taught to love everyone. But I have also been taught right from wrong. I am accepting of people who are different than me but to accept this bill you are asking me to abandon my beliefs and standards, standards that I and countless others have lived by their entire lives. I do not condone abusive treatment of anyone and I treat all people with respect. I cannot accept wrongful behavior as the price of friendship.

Legalizing same-sex marriage will affect a wide spectrum of government activities and policies. If same-sex marriage becomes a recognized civil right, there will be substantial conflicts with religious freedom. This bill does not protect my rights.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Morrison

Susan Morrison

From: John Bishop
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: *****SPAM***** SB-1 TO Testify in person
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:45:31 PM

I would like to submit this testimony and also testify in person on Oct. 28th 2013

This bill is not about civil rights or even marriage equality. This is all about forcing the general public to celebrate the homosexual lifestyle. They are already accepted by society. They can marry through civil unions, have parades and live their lives freely. What they cannot do and will never be able to do is to convince all of society to voluntarily embrace and celebrate a lifestyle that has no scriptural approval and no scientific purpose! This is not a God given condition or trait at birth. You cannot tell until many years into one's life whether an individual is developing tendencies to try to enjoy in this way. This is an acquired condition. Our present society has already allowed homosexuals many forms of acceptance and individual freedoms but this still is not enough, and never will be. This will never end. If you treat this as a civil rights issue which it is definitely not, then the courts will eventually be yolked with the impossible task of forcing all of society, churches included, to completely celebrate their actions, even though some of their obvious practices go against the tenants of all revealed scripture on the planet.

Religious freedom will be history. They will eventually go after every denomination one by one until each of those places of worship embrace and condone their practices. The sad fact of the matter is that no matter how far the homosexual community takes this "forced acceptance" campaign, they will still never be truly happy and really at peace in their hearts which is what they and each one of us most certainly desires!

You folks, as a legislative body, are considering doing something that has never been done before in the history of mankind! You are considering redefining an institution that has been in place and working wonderfully since time immemorial. I hope you perceive the gravity of the choice! I humbly beg you to leave the institution of marriage as it is. Secondly, I would request that if you cannot do this , then at least let the public decide this issue in the voting booth. Again, this is not a civil rights issue. If you label homosexual desires as a civil right, protected by the courts then you will eventually be forced to also recognize and validate every politically savvy group that comes down the pike. Groups that you can't even imagine will begin to emerge, and why not? Where will it end if it doesn't end here? I don't want the legacy of this happening on my watch, and I hope you ladies and gentlemen will also not desire this dubious distinction.

From:	Priscilla Wong
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:42:36 PM

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marraige because of our heartfelt concern and compassion for the future of our state. I concern over the physical, mental and emotional problems that will beset those who choose the homosexual lifestyle, and I object to what this will do to our community, my children and to my traditional family life. Evidence clearly show that children must be raised in a traditional family environment to thrive and to grow.

In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

Sincerely,
Priscilla Wong

October 26, 2013

Senate Committee for SB1

Ben H. Pokipala, Jr.
2115 Tantalus Dr.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senate Committee for SB1,

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons outlined hereafter:

The New Senate Bill Does Not Adequately Protect Religious Liberty

Like the Governor's original bill, the new Senate bill (S.B. 1) enacting same-sex marriage fails to protect religious liberty.

The Senate Bill Does Not Properly Protect Religious Institutions

(1) Many churches have nonprofit organizations to help them carry out their religious missions, such as religious schools and colleges like BYU-Hawaii. The Senate bill covers only "religious organizations." Unlike protections in other states, it does not protect these other important institutions that are vital to churches.

(2) The Senate bill protects churches from having to host same-sex marriage ceremonies on their religious properties or in their places of worship, such as an LDS meetinghouse. That is important, but not good enough. Unlike protections in other states, the Senate bill does not protect churches from also having to host same-sex wedding receptions and other related celebrations, or from having to provide other goods and services in connection with same-sex marriages, like marriage counseling.

(3) Many churches charge fees for the use of their chapels for weddings so they can use the additional money to support important religious activities, such as their youth ministry or program to feed the hungry. The Senate bill excludes protections for churches that do so.

The Senate Bill Does Not Protect Individuals From Being Forced to Support Same-Sex Marriage

The Senate bill would force individuals and family businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs:

(1) The Senate bill does not protect photographers and others (whether as individuals or small family businesses) from being forced to directly assist in celebrating same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs. In fact, the bill has no protections for individuals or small family businesses, even if the business is operated according to religious principles.

(2) The Senate bill does not protect county clerks and other government employees from having to perform same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs, even when other government employees are available to do so at no inconvenience to the same-sex couple. Government employees who cannot perform such marriages because of their religious beliefs will likely be fired.

The Senate Bill Does Not Protect Parents

The Senate bill provides no protections for the right of religious parents to remove their children from public school classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of marriage between a man and a woman.

Respectfully,

Ben H. Pokipala, Jr.

H. THOMAS KAY, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
State Capitol Auditorium

My name is Tom Kay. I am a kamaʻaina attorney. I strongly oppose enacting S.B. 1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 in this Second Special Session of the Hawaii State Legislature. Such action will be unconstitutional under Article 1 §23 of the Hawaii Constitution. §23 provides as follows:

"The legislature shall have power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples."

§23 was enacted by the legislature in 1997 as an amendment to the Hawaii Constitution and ratified by 69.2 percent of the voters in 1998. The sole purpose of this constitutional amendment was to reverse the Hawaii Supreme Court decision in the Baehr v. Lewin case in which the court had held that same-sex marriages in Hawaii were constitutional. Following the passage of §23 the Hawaii Supreme Court held, in an unreported decision, that the §23 constitutional marriage amendment validated HRS §572-1 which states that marriage can only be between one man and one woman.

To the 285,671 Hawaii voters out of 412,820 who cast votes in 1998, this meant that by reading constitutional amendment §23 along with the language of HRS §572-1 there could be no legal marriages of same-sex couples in Hawaii.

It also means to the voters today including those of the 285,671 voters still living in Hawaii that any consideration of legalizing marriage of same-sex couples must require an amendment to §23 of the Hawaii Constitution by a vote of the people of Hawaii.

If the Hawaii Legislature in this special session passes the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act two inevitable events will occur:

1. Litigation in both federal and state courts will continue for many years to determine whether the Marriage Act is constitutional before it is ever implemented.
2. There will be an extremely large group of angry Hawaii voters whose right to vote on this major issue was abrogated by current legislators.

The obvious solution to this dilemma is to let the Hawaii voters decide on whether same-sex couples should be allowed to marry under Hawaii law.

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing: Monday, October 28, 2013
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Place: Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street
Subject: Opposing of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

My name is Klayton Ko, Senior pastor of First Assembly of God, a congregation that meets in six locations on Oahu, and also the Assistant District Superintendent of the Assemblies of God of the State of Hawaii. I am here speaking on behalf of the thousands of our adherents who are opposed to SB1, relating to marriage equality for same-sex.

In the days leading up to this Special Session, we have heard a lot of debate about "RIGHTS" from both sides - marriage equality rights, civil rights, religious rights, federal benefits rights, free speech rights... all of which will be presented at some point during this special session. Of all the rights that have been discussed and debated, I stand before this committee to speak out for the rights of the ones who's voices are not being heard or considered in this debate - our children, who have the most to lose should same-sex marriage become legal in Hawaii.

Children have rights too! And as lawmakers is it your solemn duty to not just to consider the rights of adult same-sex advocates, but also the rights of the children, who have no voice in this debate to fight for their right to be raised in a family where there is a father and a mother. By legalizing same-sex marriage, you will deny children adopted by same-sex couple their most fundamental right, given to them by nature's God, to be raised in a family by opposite sex parents. Research have proven that a family structure, that includes a father and mother is not only foundational for a stable society; it is also fundamental to a child's psychological, and emotional development in life.

In an article, Who's Minding Our Children, Jeffrey Satinover, M. D., a psychiatrist and member of the Department of Politics at Princeton University, is quoted as saying: "there is no more important reason to prohibit same-sex marriage than the effects it would have on children ... in every area of life, cognitive, emotional, social, developmental ... at every phase of the life cycle ... social evidence shows that there are measurable effects when children lack either a mother or a father."

Proponents of same-sex marriage believe love is all children really need. Based on that supposition, they conclude that it's just as good for children to be raised by loving parents of the same sex, as by loving parents of the opposite sex. This assumption is naively simplistic and denies the complex nature and core needs of human being, The fact is, children need more than love. They need both male and female influences to help to develop in the image God gave to them at birth.

According to Trayce Hansen, a licensed psychologist, decades of research prove the ideal family structure for children is to be raised by both a mother and a father. "Children raised in such families are more likely to thrive—psychologically, mentally, and physically—than children reared in any other kind of family configuration. The differences between men and women ... bring unique characteristics to parenting that can't be replicated by the other sex. Mothers and fathers simply aren't interchangeable. Two women can both be good mothers, but neither can be a good father. One-sex parenting, whether by a single parent or a homosexual couple, deprives children of the full range of parenting offered by dual-sex couples."

The fact that there are many children who grow up in less a than ideal family structure without a father or mother, who do adjust and become successful, is no justification to legalize same-sex marriage. There is a big difference between a child not having a father or mother at home, and a child being told, he or she does not need a father or mother at home. By voting yes to legalizing same-sex marriage, you are affirming that children do not need a mother or a father, and also denying those who are adopted by same-sex couples their fundamental right to be raised by a father and a mother.

In closing, I want to read excerpts from a letter presented to me my by the 5th grade class of Christian Academy last week for Pastor's Appreciation month: "Thank you so very much for being the head pastor for First Assembly of God [and] also, for being the superintendent for our school ... You are truly a wonderful messenger of the Lord ... We appreciate you being our voice for the same-sex issue. We wish we could be of voting age. James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Today, as a messenger and a voice for many children who are not of voting age, I urge you to submit to God's authority and His definition of marriage, and resist the lies of the devil. By your vote, let's see if you are smarter than a 5th grader.

Thank you and God bless,

Klayton Ko
Senior Pastor of First Assembly of God
3400 Moanalua Rd, Honolulu, HI 96819

This bill is a disaster at best, and the demise of a culture at its worst. This bill is a 'rage against society', attempting to silence any opposition. It removes Freedom of Religion and Speech. It wants all freedom FROM religion, and wants no condemnation or opposition in speech. It is a bill to satisfy a few at the cost of the majority. And it is being rushed, to be jammed through at all costs. This is WRONG, UNCONSTITUTIONAL, and UNDEMOCRATIC. This is Not OHANA, OR ALOHA.

It is a bill that is **EXTREMELY CONTENTIOUS**, and 5 days cannot address all the issues associated with this bill adequately in this short of time. Some of these issues are the lack of protection this bill covers regarding Freedom of Speech. It does not allow any opposition from anyone regarding this topic. It would allow the Civil Rights Commission to determine if someone, or some place of business, is not in compliance. The same goes for the Freedom of Religion, and once again, it will give the Civil Rights Commission the power to determine if someone, or some place of business, is or is not in compliance. This is a conflict of interest as they assisted in writing the bill. It also allows the possibility of a 'power grab', which could lead to a thug style of business. This is NOT our Ohana way.

Redefining marriage was given in 1998 to the legislation to define marriage. In that year, 76% of the voters clearly stated that marriage was to be defined between the opposite sex. It did NOT state that the legislative branch could alter the definition between same sexes. It is a bogus argument to try and justify the position that the legislative branch has the power to change the wording of the meaning of the bill that the masses understood to be of marriage between opposite sex couples. Trying to define marriage to include same sex is a deliberate deception.

Also, this bill of a 'no amendment' clause, states 'marriage for 15 years and older', allowing the legislation to **legalize statutory rape**, as defined in the Hawaii code of legal talk. A 15 year old in Hawaii is considered a minor. You are also circumventing the parents responsibility for allowing the courts and NOT parents, to decide on such a set-up. This bill also does NOT protect religious institutions, facilities, and/or properties from frivolous lawsuits as we have seen on the mainland. The lack of clarity on this issue is a can of worms to say the least. Washington, Oregon, New Mexico, New Hampshire, and Hawaii are a few of the states that faced unnecessary lawsuits because someone's feelings were 'hurt'. Not one of those cases was refused any service or product where another place of business was offered as an alternative. No satisfaction to the 'offended' homosexual was acceptable except for the demise of the companies. This law will open up more such lawsuits, with the threat of putting businesses on edge, especially is such an unstable economy that we have now.

Looking at this bill and the rush to pass it shows the willful and deceitful intent of this bill. There was NO JUSTIFICATION for this special session that the taxpayers will have to pay. Sadly, it is the politicians who have to 'dog and pony' this show for the governor. And sadly, it is Hawaii's legislation that is being made pawns in a knee-jerk reaction of 'feelings' for those wanting this bill rushed to passage. It is also a projection of a false discrimination, of 'inequality' regarding marriage. Marriage is NOT a right.

Civil Unions was made into law to satisfy the desire for marriage in the homosexual community. There are presently two or more open bills to amend for any inadequacies that the current Civil Union laws

affect. This would AVOID the whole issue of radically redefining marriage as it is historically, traditionally, and culturally defined.

In Summary this special session should be stopped IMMEDIATELY. If not stopped, then voted NO due to:

- It is UNCONSTITUTIONAL

-It is UNDEMOCRATIC

-It is INTENTIONALLY DECEPTIVE AND MISLEADING

-It allows STATUTORY RAPE and CIRCUMVENTING Parental Rights

-It allows lawmakers to be used as PAWNS

-It denies FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION

IT IS THE **MOST CONTENTIOUS** BILL THAT NEEDS MORE THAN 5 DAYS TO BE ADEQUATELY HEARD.

IT NEEDS TO BE PUT TO THE VOTERS----P E R I O D .

JENNIFER MIE KAJIYAMA
BYUH #1737, 55-220 Kulanui St., Laie, HI 96762 – jennifer.kajiyama@byuh.edu

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM
Location: Auditorium, State Capitol.
Bill: Senate Bill 1
I WILL BE PRESENT TO PERSONALLY DELIVER MY TESTIMONY.

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Jennifer Mie Kajiyama, and I am a 33-year resident from Laie, Hawaii. I am **strongly opposed** to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to you and your colleagues. I have spent a great deal of time researching the issue, as well as speaking with religious liberty scholars and attorneys. Further as an attorney, educator at BYU-Hawaii, mother, and concerned citizen I find that this Bill severely restricts religious freedom and the democratic process. I am strongly opposed to the Marriage Equality Bill for four main reasons. First, the religious exemption does not properly protect religious organizations. Second, there is not enough demand for same-sex marriage to require fundamentally changing the Constitution and society. Third, the Senate Bill does not protect individuals from being forced to support same-sex marriage, nor does it protect parents. Finally, there are no affirmative protections for religious organizations.

1. The Senate Bill Does Not Protect Religious Institutions

Many churches have nonprofit organizations to help them carry out their religious missions, such as religious schools and colleges like BYU-Hawaii. The Senate Bill covers only "religious organizations." Unlike protections in other states, it does not protect these other important institutions that are vital to churches.

The Senate Bill protects churches from having to host same-sex marriage ceremonies on their religious properties or in their places of worship, such as an LDS meetinghouse. That is important, but not good enough. Unlike protections in other states, the Senate Bill does not protect churches from also having to host same-sex wedding receptions and

other related celebrations, or from having to provide other goods and services in connection with same-sex marriages, like marriage counseling.

Many churches charge fees for the use of their chapels for weddings so they can use the additional money to support important religious activities, such as their youth ministry or program to feed the hungry. The Senate Bill excludes protections for churches that do so.

Finally, there is no religious exemption in Hawaii's public accommodations law. Many religious groups and entities will fall under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission that serves to prevent discrimination on sexual orientation. The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission could view churches as public accommodations as most facilities will be considered as public accommodations, thus disqualifying them from any protections offered by this Bill against lawsuits and litigation. A religious entity may be forced to choose between following their faith, or facing lawsuits, fines, or penalties. Since there is no protection for religious groups from the public accommodations laws it makes the immunity provisions ineffective and illusory.

2. There is Not Enough Demand for Same-sex Marriage to Require Fundamental Changes in Society

Secondly, there is not enough demand for same-sex marriage to require fundamentally changing the Constitution and society. Since the Civil Union law went into effect on January 1, 2013, only 916 couples or 1,832 individuals entered into civil unions in Hawaii. With a population of 1.392 million people (2012), persons in civil unions account for less than 1/5 of 1% of our state population. Yet this law would affect everyone in Hawaii, and specifically negatively impinge on religious groups and individuals. The Senate Bill would force individuals and family businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs.

The Senate Bill does not protect photographers and others (whether as individuals or small family businesses) from being forced to directly assist in celebrating same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs. In fact, the Bill has no protections for individuals or small family businesses, even if the business is operated according to religious principles.

The Senate Bill does not protect county clerks and other government employees from having to perform same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs, even when other government employees are available to do so at no inconvenience to the same-sex couple. Government employees who cannot perform such marriages because of their religious beliefs will likely be fired.

JENNIFER MIE KAJIYAMA
BYUH #1737, 55-220 Kulanui St., Laie, HI 96762 – jennifer.kajiyama@byuh.edu

3. The Senate Bill Does Not Protect Individuals From Being Forced to Support Same-Sex Marriage, Nor Does it Protect Parents.

The Senate Bill would force individuals and family businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs.

First, the Senate Bill does not protect photographers and others (whether as individuals or small family businesses) from being forced to directly assist in celebrating same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs. In fact, the Bill has no protections for individuals or small family businesses, even if the business is operated according to religious principles.

Secondly, the Senate Bill does not protect county clerks and other government employees from having to perform same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs, even when other government employees are available to do so at no inconvenience to the same-sex couple. Government employees who cannot perform such marriages because of their religious beliefs will likely be fired.

Thirdly, the Senate Bill does not protect parents. The Senate bill provides no protections for the right of religious parents to remove their children from public school classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of marriage between a man and a woman.

4. Religious Exemption Provides No Affirmative Protections for Religious Organizations

The proposed marriage bill provides one of the most restrictive religious freedoms exemption, and provides no affirmative protections. 13 states and Washington D.C. have adopted similar laws that have provided broad protections for religious organizations and their subordinate organizations. For instance, the District of Columbia's religious exemption clause, found in Section E, states that a "religious organization is not required to provide services, accommodations, facilities, solemnization," etc., and is "protected from any civil claims in this area."

Delaware's exemption states in Section 8, that nothing in the Act should be construed to "violate any person's rights under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution" or "interfere with or regulate the religious practice of any religious society. Any religious society is free to choose which marriages it will solemnize." The exemptions found in other states such as Minnesota specifically broaden the religious agents covered by the exemption. Not only does this apply to the religious organizations leaders but to "employees, agents, volunteers acting within the capacity of their employment or responsibilities with a religious association, religious corporation, or religious society."

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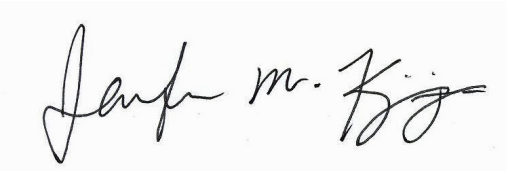
Further, Washington, D.C., also reaffirms the right of religious organizations to have freedom of conscience and freedom of believe. "Each religious society has exclusive control over its own theological doctrine, teachings, and beliefs regarding who may marry within that particular religious society's faith."

The proposed bill in Hawaii must affirmatively state the protections for a religious organization. The proposed bill should reaffirm the fundamental right of freedom of religion and state that it will not interfere with the religious society's choice on which marriages to solemnize. The proposed exemption should also state that the exemption applies to all individuals who are employed or volunteer with a religious organization. Finally, the exemption should specifically provided that each religious organization has exclusive control over their own theological doctrine without worry of penalty or fine.

I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 1 and urge you to vote **NO** on this measure for the following reasons. First, the religious exemption does not properly protect religious organizations. Second, there is not enough demand for same-sex marriage to require fundamentally changing the Constitution and society. Third, the Senate Bill does not protect individuals from being forced to support same-sex marriage, nor does it protect parents. Finally, there are no affirmative protections for religious organizations. Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our State as Senators and Representatives. If you have any questions or if I can provide you with any information you can reach me at jennifer.kajiyama@byuh.edu or at 808-675-3687.

Thank you,



Jennifer Kajiyama**, JD, MPA**
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Prelaw Advisor, BYU-Hawaii
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KATSUHIRO KAJIYAMA
BYUH #1737, 55-220 Kulanui St., Laie, HI 96762 – kajiyamk@byuh.edu

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM
Location: Auditorium, State Capitol
Bill: Senate Bill 1
I WILL BE PRESENT TO PERSONALLY DELIVER MY TESTIMONY.

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Katsuhiro Kajiyama, and I am a 50-year resident from Laie, Hawaii. I am strongly opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to you and your colleagues. I have spent a great deal of time researching the issue, as well as speaking with religious liberty scholars and attorneys. Further as an educator at BYU-Hawaii, father, grandfather, and concerned citizen I find that this bill severely endangers religious freedom and the democratic process for the following reasons. First, the legislature does not have to pass the law at this time. Secondly, there is not a great enough demand for same-sex marriage to fundamentally change the Constitution and society. Thirdly, the Senate Bill does not protect religious institutions.

1. The Legislature Does Not Have to Pass This Law At This Time

First, the legislature does not have to pass this piece of legislation through a special session. We are two months from the start of the regular legislative session starting. The Hawaii State Legislature could hold off voting on this issue until this time. This would allow committee hearings to be held on the neighbor islands. This would allow ample time for discussion and public input. A regular session is also 120 days long versus a special session which is scheduled to be finished within the week. In addition, this law will go into effect barely two weeks later on November 18. There is not enough time for the State of Hawaii to change all of its policies, procedures, and practices to abide by these new laws. There is not enough time to discuss the effects of these changes on society, education, housing, adoptions, universities, etc. Finally, this the first unilateral special session in 20 years, and none of the other 35 states that do not have same-sex

marriage laws are not planning special sessions.

2. There is Not Enough Demand for Same-sex Marriage to Require Fundamental Changes in Society

Secondly, there is not enough demand for same-sex marriage to require fundamentally changing the Constitution and society. Since the Civil Union law went into effect on January 1, 2013, only 916 couples or 1,832 individuals entered into civil unions in Hawaii. With a population of 1.392 million people (2012), persons in civil unions account for less than 1/5 of 1% of our state population. Yet this law would affect everyone in Hawaii, and specifically negatively impinge on religious groups and individuals. The Senate bill would force individuals and family businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs.

The Senate bill does not protect photographers and others (whether as individuals or small family businesses) from being forced to directly assist in celebrating same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs. In fact, the bill has no protections for individuals or small family businesses, even if the business is operated according to religious principles.

The Senate bill does not protect county clerks and other government employees from having to perform same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs, even when other government employees are available to do so at no inconvenience to the same-sex couple. Government employees who cannot perform such marriages because of their religious beliefs will likely be fired.

3. The Senate Bill Does Not Protect Religious Institutions

Many churches have nonprofit organizations to help them carry out their religious missions, such as religious schools and colleges like BYU-Hawaii. The Senate bill covers only "religious organizations." Unlike protections in other states, it does not protect these other important institutions that are vital to churches.

The Senate bill protects churches from having to host same-sex marriage ceremonies on their religious properties or in their places of worship, such as an LDS meetinghouse. That is important, but not good enough. Unlike protections in other states, the Senate bill does not protect churches from also having to host same-sex wedding receptions and other related celebrations, or from having to provide other goods and services in connection with same-sex marriages, like marriage counseling.

KATSUHIRO KAJIYAMA
BYUH #1737, 55-220 Kulanui St., Laie, HI 96762 – kajiyamk@byuh.edu

Many churches charge fees for the use of their chapels for weddings so they can use the additional money to support important religious activities, such as their youth ministry or program to feed the hungry. The Senate bill excludes protections for churches that do so.

Finally, there is no religious exemption in Hawaii's public accommodations law. Many religious groups and entities will fall under the jurisdiction of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission that serves to prevent discrimination on sexual orientation. The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission could view churches as public accommodations as most facilities will be considered as public accommodations, thus disqualifying them from any protections offered by this bill against lawsuits and litigation. A religious entity may be forced to choose between following their faith, or facing lawsuits, fines, or penalties. Since there is no protection for religious groups from the public accommodations laws it makes the immunity provisions ineffective and illusory.

I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 1 and urge you to vote NO on this measure. First, the legislature does not have to pass the law at this time. Secondly, there is not a great enough demand for same-sex marriage to require fundamentally change the Constitution and society. Thirdly, the Senate Bill does not protect religious institutions. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Katsuhiro Kajiyama
BYUH #1737
55-220 Kulanui St.
Laie, HI 96762
kajiyamk@byuh.edu

HILDA KAJIYAMA
BYUH #1737, 55-220 Kulanui St., Laie, HI 96762 – kajiyamh@byuh.edu

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM
Location: Auditorium, State Capitol
Bill: Senate Bill 1
I WILL BE PRESENT TO PERSONALLY DELIVER MY TESTIMONY.

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Hilda Kajiyama, and I am a 68-year resident from Laie, Hawaii. I am strongly opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to you and your colleagues. I have spent a great deal of time researching the issue, as well as speaking with religious liberty scholars and attorneys. Further as an accountant at BYU-Hawaii, mother, grandmother, and concerned citizen I find that this bill severely endangers religious freedom and the democratic process for the following reasons. First, the legislature does not have to pass the law at this time. Secondly, there is not a great enough demand for same-sex marriage to fundamentally change the Constitution and society. Thirdly, the Senate Bill does not protect religious institutions.

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I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 1 and urge you to vote **NO** on this measure for the following reasons. First, the legislature does not have to pass the law at this time. Secondly, there is not a great enough demand for same-sex marriage to require fundamentally change the Constitution and society. Thirdly, the Senate Bill does not protect religious institutions. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Hilda Kajiyama
BYUH #1737
55-220 Kulanui St.
Laie, HI 96762
kajiyamh@byuh.edu

From:	Stuart Wolthuis
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	HB-1: Reserve My Right to appear and give testimony
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:23:03 AM

From: Stuart Wolthuis

Aloha,

I would like to appear in person and give my testimony in regards to HB-1, Marriage Equality. I am an educator and have class until 1:10 PM on Monday and would like to give my testimony in person after 5 PM (need a couple of hours to get there from Laie).

The following is my testimony:

I am OPPOSED to the Bill on Marriage Equality. I have read the entire proposed bill on Marriage Equality and the accompanying accommodation definitions. I am a registered Hawaii State voter.

If people would like to enter relationships that are other than traditional marriage I firmly believe that is their right and freedom to choose, I would never want to limit someone's freedom to choose ... but I do emphatically recommend that choosing a relationship other than a traditional marriage should not be called a "marriage." Call it a civil union or some other name, but the definition of marriage was defined by God and should not be changed.

My beliefs are deeply rooted in my Christian faith. I truly and deeply "love my neighbor." At the same time I'm deeply concerned about the redefinition of marriage going on all over the world. I believe marriage should be between a man and woman.

As an ordained minister I'm also concerned about the language in the Governor's version of the bill which does not adequately protect religious institutions. The Governor appears "hell-bent" to get in to God's business and steal His wallet by removing tax-exempt status.

Furthermore, this special session DOES NOT allow due process for all Hawaii voters to voice their concerns and opinions. Legislation this important should be considered in a full and regular session of the legislature.

Legislators: I sincerely ask that you reject the bill on Marriage Equality based on:

1. Marriage should not be redefined,

2. Haste makes waste, this matter needs to be considered in a full legislative session; legislation hastily written and hastily passed will incur enormous litigation costs in the future,

3. Language in the current bill does not protect OUR 1st Amendment right of religious freedom

Thank you for your time and your kokua.

Mahalo,

Stuart Wolthuis

From:	Summer Elmer
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Let the people decide testimony
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:33:58 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

"In God we trust" is still on the American coin and dollar, God has given us laws and one of them is that Marriage is Ordained to be between a man and women. We deal with this money on a daily basis, each and every one of you sitting here could possibly have a coin or a bill in your pocket, if you dont mind would you please reach in your pocket or grab your wallet out of your pocket as this is being read? Please take them out.. take it out and read those 4 words "In God We Trust" and how its so easy to forget that we literally carry his name with us in our pocket, wallets, purses and we carry his name everywhere we go and with everything we do each and every single day and in everything we buy. Please don't dismiss the correct order of Family, majority of the worlds population is husband and wife for a reason, it's ordained by God and our constitution was founded on him as well. People may have their feelings towards one another for the same-sex partner but it doesn't necessarily make it right to put it into law. Times are strange now and we must choose to stand with God or against him. I know with every fiber of my being that God feels dis-pleased with sin and does not look upon it with the least degree of allowance. If you would please here my testimony here today, for it is of righteousness and truthfulness in and on behalf of all Christian families that live here in Hawaii.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Summer Elmer)
(Wahiawa, HI, 96786)

Sent from my iPhone

From: Loren Anderson
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Testifying at SSM Special Session
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 2:14:51 AM

Monday, October 28, 2013

To: The Hawaii State Senate, 27th Legislature of 2013

Chairman Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, and

All Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor

Re: OPPOSE Senate Bill S.B. 1 – "RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS" and all related bills legitimizing homosexuality or same sex marriage.

Hearing, Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM. in the Auditorium

State Capitol, 415 So. Beretania St., Honolulu, HI 96813

Chairman Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and all the Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor:

For the Senate: ***"Good morning/afternoon/evening, Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor."***

For the House, "Good morning/afternoon/evening, Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har, Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Johnson, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance."

Hi My Name is Loren Anderson and I am a registered voter from Ewa Beach. I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 for two primary reasons.

The authoritarian way that it is being enacted with haste. Why would you enact a law that departs from hundreds of years of history, traditions and culture on a ram rod schedule and limited community input. Impacting education, business and church's in ways far more invasive then any of us can foresee. Lead us don't

subjugate us

Secondly the so-called religious protection clauses in the current bill do not protect any individuals First Amendment rights, including freedom of speech and freedom of religion. Once similar laws were passed elsewhere, there were numerous examples of people being sued, fined and even jailed for speaking out against, or refusing service to, homosexual unions. Christians are an involved community asset in our State and world on issues as wide ranging as homelessness, poverty, drug addiction, human trafficking, predatory sexuality, domestic violence, parenting and education seeing lives changed and the weak protected. Our work as the salt and light of the world frequently requires us to speak confrontive truths from the Bible This law you are considering has the potential and history in other states of subjugating our First Amendment rights to anti-discrimination laws in an attempt to silence our voice. Don't let this happen in Hawaii

In conclusion we are not the first people in history to see the ancient boundaries of marriage and human sexuality challenged. Live Pono and we will be grateful.

Loren Anderson
91-1006 Waiko'ihi Street
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706
Telephone/Fax (808) 681-3232
online.electric.inc@hawaii.rr.com

BettyJeanAnderson
91-1006 Waiko'ihi Street • KaMakana at Hoakalei • Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706 •
Telephone/Fax (808) 681-3232 • E-mail: ladyvalledor@hawaii.rr.com

Monday, October 28, 2013

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Chairman Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, and
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Re: OPPOSE Senate Bill S.B. 1 – "RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS" and all related bills legitimizing homosexuality or same sex marriage.
Hearing, Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM. in the Auditorium
State Capitol, 415 So. Beretania St., Honolulu, HI 96813

Chairman Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and all the Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor:

My name is BettyJean Anderson. I'm a married, registered voter from Ewa Beach, and a resident of Hawaii 33 years. I plead with you to oppose S.B. 1 endorsing same sex marriage under the guise of equal rights. I appeal to you to not foist this hurried and poorly-written bill upon our State which has no amendments and "does not protect people of faith to practice their religion nor protects their right to free speech guaranteed under the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

This bill is not truly about equal rights for homosexuals to marry since their rights and benefits are already protected under our domestic partnership and civil unions laws--after all, what's a piece of paper? S.B.1 is primarily a bill to discriminate against people of faith requiring them to obey a law to accept homosexuality which goes against their deeply held beliefs, convictions and consciences and renders any non-acceptance of homosexuality as homophobia or a hate crime. This bill is discrimination against religion. Forcing the Church to accept homosexuality is government setting up the rights of humanistic homosexuals *above* the rights of religious citizens; and thus rendering the religious as second-class.

For people of faith Scripture clearly states that homosexuality is a transgression against divine law. Believers must have equal rights and be free to express this faith as delineated in this ancient scripture:
"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you

were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God." - I Corinthians 6:9-11, The Holy Bible

Representative McDermott asked Governor Abercrombie, "Based on your reasoning that Same-Sex Marriage is a civil right, then how can you disenfranchise a bi-sexual from marrying the people he/she loves?" The Governor's response, "I fully expect a lawsuit to be filed in about a year." Is this where we are headed--first endorsing homosexuality, then polygamy? Is this what we want for Hawaii?

Yes, many states and countries are passing same-sex marriage laws and but they have since been learning to regret it, too, with buyer's remorse as told by the Massachusetts Resistance and educator Phil Lees of Ontario, Canada here in the islands to warn Hawaii. But as my mother once said, "Just because everyone wants to jump off a cliff, should you?"

Will churches be able to refuse to marry two men or two women which goes expressly against the Scriptures, our faith and our consciences? Will religious discrimination result in coercion, prosecutions for resisting "the law," and slurs as "homophobes."

Please do not pass this deeply flawed discriminatory law against Christians, churches and people of faith where non-compliance and violations of their consciences would result in being arrested, jailed, sued or coerced for non-acceptance of homosexual marriages. Instead, please support and pass HB 5 "Proposing An Amendment To The Hawaii Constitution To Reserve Marriage to Opposite Sex Couples."

Let me end with this verse from the ancient scripture in Proverbs 14:34, "Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people."

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. BettyJean Anderson
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

From: Mathoni McCormick
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: OPPOSED to the Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 4:48:42 AM

To All Legislators and Any Other Representatives Involved:

My name is Mathoni M. McCormick, and I am a resident of the State of Hawaii and currently reside in Laie. My purpose in writing this email is to inform you as to my view on the proposed Marriage Equality Act of 2013. I am adamantly opposed to the proposed changes that the Act would implement, most especially the redefining of marriage as being between a man and a woman. I am opposed to same-sex marriage being legally recognized by the State, and extending the same benefits enjoyed by a husband and wife to same-sex couples. I am especially opposed to the weak protections the proposed bill offers to the First Amendment's Freedom of Religion. As currently drafted, the protections offered to religious institutions are almost non-existent.

Firstly, I am opposed to the passing of the Marriage Equality Act of 2013 in any form. Secondly, if the Act were somehow enacted, I would plead for the Legislature to include stronger protections for religious institutions and members of such acting in offices of service in such organizations. I would like exemptions explicitly identifying by name certain exempted organizations, such as the Catholic Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and any other evangelical church or religious organization who holds true to the religious belief that marriage is ordained of God to be only between a man and a woman.

Thirdly, the Act as currently drafted offers little protection for other religiously affiliated institutions, such as universities, private schools, etc. The only protection currently included is a broad provision exempting exclusively religiously-used buildings from being subject to the Act. However, this is subject to the Public Accommodations exception, meaning that any building that is open to the public, such as an auditorium used for plays or a stadium used for sporting events where the public are invited, would be subject to the Act. I am opposed to the exemption for religiously-affiliated institutions being subject to the Public Accommodations exception. If the Act is passed, I would strongly favor including exemption in favor of these institutions from being subject to the Act in their entirety, and not subject to the Public Accommodations exception whatsoever. As with the specifically-identified religious institutions, the religiously-affiliated institutions to be protected and exempted from the Act should be specifically named to the extent possible and included in the Act; particularly, I would like to see Brigham Young University-Hawaii Campus named and exempted from being subject to the Act.

As our duly appointed representative, I urge you to consider the voice and will of those

you represent, and act accordingly in opposing the Act in its entirety; and, if in the unfortunate event of its passing, to ensure the adequate protection of our Constitutionally-guaranteed religious freedoms.

Thank you,

Mathoni M. McCormick

From: Mathoni McCormick
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: OPPOSED to the Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 4:49:46 AM

To All Legislators and Any Other Representatives Involved:

My name is James McCormick, and I am a resident of the State of Hawaii and currently reside in Laie. My purpose in writing this email is to inform you as to my view on the proposed Marriage Equality Act of 2013. I am adamantly opposed to the proposed changes that the Act would implement, most especially the redefining of marriage as being between a man and a woman. I am opposed to same-sex marriage being legally recognized by the State, and extending the same benefits enjoyed by a husband and wife to same-sex couples. I am especially opposed to the weak protections the proposed bill offers to the First Amendment's Freedom of Religion. As currently drafted, the protections offered to religious institutions are almost non-existent.

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As our duly appointed representative, I urge you to consider the voice and will of those

you represent, and act accordingly in opposing the Act in its entirety; and, if in the unfortunate event of its passing, to ensure the adequate protection of our Constitutionally-guaranteed religious freedoms.

Thank you,

James McCormick

From: Sarita Mccormick
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: OPPOSED to Marriage Equality Act
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 4:54:55 AM

To All Legislators and Any Other Representatives Involved:

My name is Sarita McCormick, and I am a resident of the State of Hawaii and currently reside in Laie. My purpose in writing this email is to inform you as to my view on the proposed Marriage Equality Act of 2013. I am adamantly opposed to the proposed changes that the Act would implement, most especially the redefining of marriage as being between a man and a woman. I am opposed to same-sex marriage being legally recognized by the State, and extending the same benefits enjoyed by a husband and wife to same-sex couples. I am especially opposed to the weak protections the proposed bill offers to the First Amendment's Freedom of Religion. As currently drafted, the protections offered to religious institutions are almost non-existent.

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As our duly appointed representative, I urge you to consider the voice and will of those you represent, and act accordingly in opposing the Act in its entirety; and, if in the unfortunate event of its passing, to ensure the adequate protection of our Constitutionally-guaranteed religious freedoms.

Thank you,

Sarita McCormick

Pakela Akaka
3263 Mokihana St. Honolulu HI 968160 - mr.pkillah@gmail.com

The Honorable Senators and Representatives of the State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

October 25, 2013

RE: Opposition to Proposed Marriage Bill

Aloha Senators and Representatives of the State of Hawaii,

My name is Pakela Alfred Akaka; I am a 19 year old resident from Honolulu, Hawaii. I thank you for the opportunity to provide my personal thoughts and insight to you and your colleagues. For the past month I have been very involved in getting informed on the issue of same sex marriage. I have spoken with several lawyers, attorneys, as well as scholars of both marriage and religious liberties. As a sufficiently informed concerned individual I find this Bill to be inadequate regarding it's protections to religious freedoms.

I am strongly opposed to this bill because I feel that it does not grant the proper protections to religious freedoms that I feel should be addressed if this bill is to be considered acceptable. I am also opposed to this bill because of the special session. I feel it is being rushed without complete understanding, and that misunderstanding is creating a great division in the people that will only get worse if this bill should pass.

1. **Religious Protections that must be addressed.**

The religious exemptions in the bill are just too narrow to create any kind secure protection for religious organizations. The protections for clergy only apply to solemnization of marriage. An important clarification that I feel should be addressed is a protection for the celebration of marriage as well. Many of the other states that have passed same sex marriage have wording regarding not only the solemnization of marriage but the celebration of it as well. This will grant better protection for clergy than currently stated.

Secondly, I do not see much protection at all for religious individuals. What proponents of this bill fail to realize is that religion and churches are made up of religious individuals. Just as the gay community is made up of gay individuals deserving of the rights they are fighting for, so too is the religious community made up of religious individuals who are fighting to protect the rights they currently have. Many examples can be found in other states regarding lawsuits against religious individuals who face lengthy litigations because they have chosen to follow their beliefs. Being limited in the allowance to practice your beliefs is not the freedom to believe. Here are some points of protection that I feel should be addressed in some way in the bill stating that there are protections or stating that civil actions will be made:

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- Accreditation
- Tax exempt status
- Public officials (individual protections)
- Religious non-profits
- Small businesses offering wedding services
- Employment eligibility
- Employment benefits
- Licensing (doctors, counselors, psychologists, food service, adoption agency, etc.)
- Schools (protected from forced teachings, and protections for parental beliefs)
- Private Lawsuits
- Withdrawal of government benefits
- Denial of access to government facilities

Addressing all of these things in the bill and stating how it should be interpreted is something that I feel would be necessary in granting protections, and understanding where/how an individual would seek to protect them better.

2. **Contention of a Special Session**

Please know that I am a loving and caring person. I have a deep respect and love for others who do not share my faith or personal beliefs, and I would not seek to hurt the people of the gay community. It saddens me to think that anyone who speaks out against gay advocacy is rigidly and with lasting recognition as an ignorant homophobe, or a religious bigot. I have been striving from day one of getting involved to remove that stereotype with respect and understanding. Unfortunately not everyone is as willing to do the same in this issue.

Since getting involved with this issue I have been privileged to work with many different people, and also speak with those who stand opposed to me in their thought on the same sex marriage bill. Between those that are informed, those that are partially informed, and those that know little to nothing about what is going on here in Hawaii, there is just too much misunderstandings, assumptions, and misinformed lies. A very big division is something that I have noticed in the people of Hawaii because of this Bill and the special session.

In the church I have seen some of this contention among the members. Several members of the church who are actively engaged in this ordeal unjustly judge those who are not involved as being poor followers of Christ. Those who are not engaged become resentful of the members that are involved because they feel the contention created by poor judgment. These judgments and assumptions all done out of ignorance create a division among the hearts of men that take away from the potential for people to create an environment of happiness and love.

Another sad example of the division created herein is between society and the churches themselves. Some Christians/other religious folk go around preaching their

Pakela Akaka
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beliefs and discounting the rights of others to believe differently. Meanwhile, on the other hand, the general public is being led by the media to believe that the religious folk are the only ones who will be affected and that they are just being radical fanatics. This discounts the beliefs of those churches as well as the efforts of their members. The gay community, from my experience, feel that the churches are slated out to suppress them of their freedoms, and the churches feel most of them to be unaware of the potential damages to religious freedoms. The problem is that there is so much misunderstanding and contention because of how fast this special session is occurring that Hawaii's society is really becoming divided.

The most heartbreaking news for me is how my friend Sheri Bren, who is currently pregnant with her 9th child, and her husband were both attacked while they were waving signs on Friday Oct. 25th 2013. Her description is as follows:

A man ripped down & stole our banner, intentionally banged my husband's truck (twice), and tried to run us over as we were getting his license number. He continued to step on his gas & hit us with his car as I yelled for him to stop & that I was pregnant (yes, baby #9) he drug us both for a distance and only stopped because my husband smashed his windshield & stopped him.

I ask that you will all consider the word in the Hawaii Revised Statutes §5-7.5 "The Law of Aloha".

§ 5-7.5 "Aloha Spirit". (a) "**Aloha** Spirit" is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emote good feelings to others. In the contemplation and presence of the life force, "**Aloha**", the following **unuhi laulā loa** may be used:

"**Akahai**", meaning kindness to be expressed with tenderness;
"**Lōkahi**", meaning unity, to be expressed with harmony;
"**'Olu'olu**" meaning agreeable, to be expressed with pleasantness;
"**Ha'aha'a**", meaning humility, to be expressed with modesty;
"**Ahonui**", meaning patience, to be expressed with perseverance.

These are traits of character that express the charm, warmth and sincerity of Hawaii's people. It was the working philosophy of native Hawaiians and was presented as a gift to the people of Hawai'i. "**Aloha**" is more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation. "**Aloha**" means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return. "**Aloha**" is the essence of relationships in which each person is important to every other person for collective existence. "**Aloha**" means to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen and to know the unknowable.

(b) In exercising their power on behalf of the people and in fulfillment of their responsibilities, obligations and service to the people, the legislature, governor, lieutenant governor, executive officers of each department, the chief justice, associate justices, and judges of the appellate, circuit, and district courts may contemplate and reside with the life force and give consideration to the "**Aloha** Spirit". [L 1986, c 202, § 1]

Pakela Akaka
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I am opposed to this bill because I feel that religious freedoms must be protected. I am opposed to this special session because I feel that the Aloha and love of this land and people must be protected as well. The contention and hatred has already begun to divide us, and passing this bill in a special session will only make things worse here. I pray that you will seriously consider the concerns of this 19 yr. old young man. These are matters of great importance for All of Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration and for your service as Senators and Representatives.

Mahalo,

Pakela Akaka
3263 Mokihana St
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808)-469-2642 (Cell)
Mr.pkillah@gmail.com

From: Norman Sakamoto
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Testimony of SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 5:22:17 AM

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Chair Clayton Hee and members

Testimony for SB1, Monday, October 28, 2013HB 117, SD1,CD1

Against the bill as drafted. FOR a Constitutional Amendment.

The following excerpts from the Senate Journal clearly show that the State Constitution was held in high regard The remarks clearly show the senators were aware that an affirmative ***vote by the people*** was to limit marriage to opposite sex couples.

Excerpts from the Senate Journal, Friday April 18, 1997 just prior to the vote for the Constitutional Amendment Relating to Marriage. (Emphasis added.)

Senator Matsunaga-

"Essentially, it accomplishes what we sought to achieve last year. That is, marriage licenses will be limited to opposite sex couples, but coupled with the passage of HB No. 118, CD1, nontraditional couples will be provided access to substantially similar economic marital rights and benefits."

"The **people of Hawaii** will have an opportunity to definitively express their will on the issuance of marriage licenses. **As legislators we are bound to acknowledge their power and abide by their will."**

Senator Sakamoto-

"...I support this because it gives the **voters** what they wanted and what they have been asking for, and yes, for years, to decide for themselves what marriage means in Hawaii."

Senator Chumbley-

"I support this proposed constitutional amendment, Mr President, because I **support and believe in the right of the citizens if Hawaii to define their own constitution**. I also trust that, upon full and fair debate, our citizens, over

time, will do the right thing.

"The amendment before us today is as finely tailored as we could accomplish. The **people will decide** on the simple issue of whether marriage should be limited to couples of the opposite sex-- the courts are not insulted, equal protection is not conditioned, and no religious or social dogma is adopted. Instead, an affirmative expression of our understanding of marriage is incorporated in the supreme law of the land.

"Mr President, as a Legislator, I took an oath to uphold the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, a document which I hold dear as a lawmaker and as a citizen. The preamble to our constitution states, 'We reaffirm our belief in a government of the people, by the people and for the people, and with and understanding and compassionate heart towards all peoples of the earth, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution of the State of Hawaii.' "

Senator McCartney-

"So that the record is clear, granting similar rights and benefits does not mean granting same sex marriage as some have alluded to in an effort to confuse the public. Our compromise package simply gives us the legal and constitutional abilities to limit marriage to man and woman and ensures that those who cannot be married under the law are afforded certain rights and benefits."

Ayes, 25. Noes, none.

In summary, the legislature needs to acknowledge that the voters did amend the constitution with the intent to limit marriage to couples of the opposite sex. The current legislature needs to honor the legislative record, the people's votes, and the Hawaii State Constitution.

I am not is support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Norman Sakamoto

From: Robin Makapagal
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 5:34:31 AM

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in opposition to SB1, on the matter of same sex marriage.

My first objection is that this bill does not warrant a special session. It is not an emergency by any stretch of the imagination. This special session seems to be an attempt by the Governor to circumvent the democratic process. It is a matter that should properly go to the regular session to allow for public testimony and proper vetting by committees and both houses. You are simply not allowing enough time for public input, a tactic which I believe is a deliberate attempt to keep the voters out of this discussion.

My second objection is that there already is a means by which same sex couples can be afforded benefits under the law, and that is our civil unions law. I understand that less than 1% of our population are united by civil unions. We are rushing into something that benefits less than 1% of the population? That is preposterous. If it is federal benefits these couples are seeking, they can be "wed" under the laws of what, 16 other jurisdictions?

Third, the good people of the state of Hawaii, thinking they were voting against same sex marriage, gave the state legislature the opportunity to define marriage, something our lawmakers have failed to do since 1998. Why are we allowing ourselves to be bullied by outside interests? Why are we having something shoved down our throats that the majority of citizens likely do not believe in? I say it's political correctness. I say that's pure shibai.

I don't know you, but one thing I'm sure of. Like me, you are the product of the union between a man and a woman, my parents, each of whom was the product of the union of their parents. My son, my niece and nephews, and all my cousins and assorted relatives are also the product of a heterosexual union. We are are all products of heterosexual unions. Homosexual unions fly in the face of the facts of life. Two same sex individuals will never produce children unless they acquire semen, borrow a uterus, or even adopt.

You may not subscribe to the understanding that we are created male and female, made in the image and likeness of God who made us to be sexual beings, each with our own function and kuleana. I do. Thousands upon thousands of citizens of this state do. We are voters. We will hold you to account for what you do. I urge you to kill SB1 in committee.

Aloha,
Robin Williams Makapagal, MSW

The people to whom your fathers told of the living God, and taught to call "Father," and whom the sons now seek to despoil and destroy, are crying aloud to Him in their time of trouble; and He will keep His promise, and will

listen to the voices of His Hawaiian children lamenting for their homes. It is for them that I would give the last drop of my blood; it is for them that I would spend, nay, am spending, everything belonging to me." Queen Lili`uokalani

User Submitted Values:
First
Name: James
Last Name: Hallstrom
Email: JEH@HaleKualona.com
Address 1: 1456-B Aunauna Street
City: Kailua, Oahu
State: HI
Zip / Post
Code: 06734
To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:
I am writing to voice my OPPOSITION to Bill SB1.
I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.
I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.
This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!
In the event you elect to ignore the will of the silent majority against this bill, as has been demonstrated previously in the polls, then Bill SB1 must be changed.
In the words of President Obama, "On an issue as sensitive as this, knowing that Americans hold a wide range of views based on deeply held beliefs, maintaining our nation’s commitment to religious freedom is also vital. How religious institutions define and consecrate marriage has always been up to those institutions. Nothing..(should)...change that."
Bill SB1 must be amended:
~ To provide significantly stronger Religious Conscience Protection for religious organizations, individuals, and small businesses.
~ I urge you to adopt the proposed amended language contained in a letter to Senator Baker sent on October 17, 2013 from Law Professors Edward Gaffney, Jr., Thomas Berg, Carl Esbeck, Richard Garnett, and Robin Wilson. A copy is attached following my signature.
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
James E, Hallstrom, Jr.

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

I strongly oppose SB 1. Civilized governments have the responsibility to protect the sanctity of marriage between a man and woman to ensure the continuation of the society they govern. A traditional family is the only fit unit of society that is able to ensure its continuation, not only through procreation, but also through the systems and institutions as have evolved and been adapted through the ages. Strong family life is what has brought us here as humanity, and though open homosexuality has been tried in times past, it has always failed—the reason we are once again revisiting its seemingly never ending conquest to gain legitimacy on the scales of life.

Life on this planet is contingent upon a strong family unit consisting of the union between man and woman, as defined by its least common denominator—the ability of opposite genders to procreate. Homosexuality, on the other hand, is the weakest unit in society. According to Darwin's Theory, evolution occurs by natural selection of those species "best adapted" for survival and ultimate existence. Homosexuals, therefore, are of the weakest in society as they lack the choice of a mate with whom they can reproduce, thereby limiting continuation of their species, unless promoted or otherwise advertised as a viable means for civilization or the continuation of homosexuality in that society.

Because sexual gratification between homosexuals is no less sexually rewarding than heterosexuality, it lends many of the same benefits of sexuality shared between heterosexual partners less one—the ability to procreate. Therefore, society has chosen, in times past, to label homosexuality a disease, disorder, or dysfunction. I affirm that homosexuality is nothing less than a choice. I speak from personal experience as one having been homosexually propositioned many times throughout my life. Each time, I have chosen to adhere to the morals and values taught me by my mother and father, though I could have just as easily chosen otherwise.

As a heterosexual, my decision to remain monogamous has been just as decisive. There have been many occasions where I could have chosen to mate with other partners besides my wife. Each of the many times I have been confronted with that choice, I have determined and chosen to stay true to the promise I made with her and with God.

The promise I made to remain faithful to my wife is, in part, called marriage. Staying true and faithful to my wife, thereby creating and maintaining an environment of emotional and mental stability for my children, my wife, and myself, has enabled me to maximize my growth, well-being, and standing in society, and also my ability to contribute mentally strong and morally straight children who I am teaching to continue in our family's long tradition of bearing and rearing humans, who then hopefully will become strong members of human families.

Human sexuality is determined by choice alone. I have chosen heterosexuality. I have also chosen to have children with my partner. I have also chosen to be monogamous. I have also chosen to care for my children and wife. I call them family—the basic social unit of society, consisting of at least one man and one woman, through which procreation is the only means enabling its continuation. To define marriage any other way is to attempt to change the laws of nature and of God.

To promote homosexuality through legal and political means is uncivilized. It threatens the very fabric of our society. Even worse is to instigate its means through special session, outside the voice of the people, and well beyond that is to claim homosexual marriage as a civil right—as if the simple legal proclamation of equality would somehow enable men and women as separate copulating groups to bring forth children—the latter of which begs the question, "is there then not therefore an unseen hand instigating this political struggle, invested in weakening, eroding, depopulating, and even destroying humanity, if not so easily seen in my previous arguments then maybe, at the very least, recognized in the divisiveness of this heated debate?"

Do these issues not divide us now at a time when all other facets of our society seem to hang on the scales of death as well? Our political, economic, and defense systems have been under attack for decades, and somehow we find ourselves fighting over the definition of who has the right to procreate, even when those arguments in opposition, being brought forth by a small minority, are thoroughly outdone by the most basic lessons in animal husbandry, biology, and the rest of the natural world as explained by science?

Thank you for opposing SB1, or may the full measure of its eternal consequences be squarely on your shoulders for allowing and enabling it.

John Wilson, Son, Husband, and Father

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Shirley Y Kinoshita. I am a Kapolei registered voter and I strongly oppose S.B. No. 1.

As late as Saturday, October 26th, several legislators were UNDECIDED on how to vote on this bill. For me, the heart of this issue can be summed up in one word

C-u-r-r-i-c-u-l-u-m

I am sad to say that if this bill passes, which allows same gender marriages, there will be shocking changes in curriculum....yes--what is taught in schools to our keiki, from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Do you know ladies and gentlemen that the Department of Education would be required to follow the new law and have a new curriculum that teaches all of the same gender lifestyles--Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender? AND, also that they are to be taught as acceptable to our society, that they are normal and that they are natural?

I suggest that everyone look at what has happened in the curriculum of the other 13 states and in District of Columbia where same gender marriages have already happened!

I am not of the opinion that those lifestyles are ACCEPTABLE-- neither are they normal, nor are they natural.

In fact in 1998--269,617 voters including myself, overwhelmingly voted for the Constitutional Amendment to reserve marriage to opposite gender couples. Same gender marriages are not civil rights and should not be legislated. Individual voters need to cast their votes to make these irreversible changes in this place that is our home--just as we did in 1998.

IF NOTHING ELSE—I ASK THAT THOSE LEGISLATORS WHO ARE UNDECIDED OR THOSE WHO REALLY DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THE EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON OUR CHILDREN IN OUR SCHOOL CURRICULUM, VOTE "NO" SO THIS RUN-AWAY TRAIN CAN BE SLOWED DOWN AND THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW THE TRUE EFFECTS OF SAME GENDER MARRIAGE HAVE TIME TO FIND OUT.

Mahalo,

Shirley Y Kinoshita - Kapolei, HI 96707

Opposition

From: Mike Lwin
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Testimony Against SB1-Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:16:34 AM

To: Chair Clayton Hee, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Mike M. Lwin
91-1325 Kuanoo Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
(808) 678-3778

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to Special Session and SB 1

Aloha Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting this testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage in Hawaii.

In 1998 I voted for what I understood was defining marriage to be between one man and one woman. In fact, 70% of Hawaii's voters agreed with me. Now here it is almost 15 years later and this is still an issue. If you want to redefine marriage, please let the people you represent decide by a constitutional amendment. One that means what it says, not a legal loophole. It seems that our elected officials are taking upon themselves to undo what the voters in Hawaii have already decided.

Additionally, I oppose this bill because the religious protection clauses are inadequate for people of faith to exercise their First Amendment right of speech and religion.

I ask you to please do one of two things:

A. Leave the institution of marriage the way it has been for thousands of years. And the way we thought we defined it in 1998

B. Take the issue back to the citizens of the State and allow us to vote for a clearly worded constitutional amendment

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Mahalo!
Mike Lwin

MICHAEL M. LWIN | SENIOR PASTOR
NEW HOPE LEEWARD
94-050 Farrington Highway #A1 | Waipahu HI 96797
PHONE: 808.678.3778 | EMAIL: PastorMikeLwin@newhopeleeward.org
www.NewHopeLeeward.org

From:	Justin Mamuad
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Special session on same sex marriage
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:32:39 AM

Aloha. As a concerned native of the State of Hawai'i, I ask that you vote NO on SB1. The effects it will have on the state and mostly on our children will be "in the words of my kupuna' "not good." Moving from years and years of traditional marriage to a marriage that is unconstitutional, and unfitting in the eyes of God will be a disgrace not to only the people of hawaii, but to the nations around the world that sees Hawai'i or America in general to be a powerful nation of law-abiding and God-fearing citizens. If we are a nation and a people that says in "God we Trust", then we MUST abide by the laws of the God we trust in. God being against any type of homosexuality, In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. I believe we should all share the same attributes as God has being the one that we trust in. Vote No for SB1. God Bless You,

Mahalo and Aloha,
Justin No'eau Ka'upu Mamuad

From: Ella Mae Camacho
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Oppostion to SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:33:49 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: In Strong Opposition of SB1

Aloha Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am submitting my written testimony in opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people of the State of Hawaii to decide on the issue of marriage. I believe in traditional marriage where a man and a woman are united together. I also support equality for all mankind and religious freedom where we are allowed to express ourselves. The citizens of the State of Hawaii have faced this issue in the past, and have expressed their choice through the democratic process which is what keeps our nation free, where choices of the majority of the people who vote are recognized.

I believe the legislature and Governor Abercrombie are going against the will of the people by holding this special session.

I am opposed to the way this important social issue is being decided virtually in one week and I ask that you please uphold the principles of the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be examined as all other bills through committee hearings which have been the recognized process in the past. These hearings allow the people to voice their opinions in that venue which gives us as your constituents further opportunities in the process that we have known and recognized for years.

We, the people have elected our government officials to serve as our voices. We have a right to express our opinions, expecially one that may affect and change the customs and traditions that we have known

for hundreds of years as native Hawaiians and citizens of the United States of America.

A "YES" vote in this special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ella Camacho

Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Edralyn Caberto
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Cc: All Reps; All Senators
Subject: In Opposition to S.B. 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:45:37 AM

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Chairman Hee,

I am writing this testimony strongly opposing the passage of S.B. 1, The Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it redefines the most core institution of society, marriage. Marriage between a man and a woman has been and is interwoven into every fabric of our society, both legally and socially, throughout all generations of time. To redefine marriage by including same sex couples is to redefine the beliefs and values of individuals who firmly hold on to marriage as that between a man and a woman.

In addition, the most critical element that this bill does not properly address is our right to religious liberty. This country was founded upon religious freedom without fear of persecution and prosecution, yet the Senate Bill denies individuals from exercising their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.

Neither does the Senate Bill adequately protect the rights of religious institutions

(1) Many churches have nonprofit organizations to help them carry out their religious missions, such as religious schools and colleges like BYU-Hawaii. The Senate bill covers only “religious organizations.” Unlike protections in other states, it does not protect these other important institutions that are vital to churches.

(2) The Senate bill protects churches from having to host same-sex marriage ceremonies on their religious properties or in their places of worship, such as an LDS meetinghouse. That is important, but not good enough. Unlike protections in other states, the Senate bill does not protect churches from also having to host same-sex wedding receptions and other related celebrations, or from having to provide other goods and services in connection with same-sex marriages, like marriage counseling.

(3) Many churches charge fees for the use of their chapels for weddings so they can use the additional money to support important religious activities, such as their youth ministry or program to feed the hungry. The Senate bill excludes protections for churches that do so.

It is with a heavy heart that I must strongly oppose Senate Bill 1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Edralyn Caberto
98-234 Hale Momi Place
Aiea, Hawaii. 96701

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Senator Chair Clayton Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to not to support this bill as I believe the legislature is not best representing the people of Hawaii's position of the definition of marriage nor preserving our religious freedom. The wording of the bill restricts all faith based organization and people of different cultures to accommodate yet compromise the core values of their culture and religion which is contradictory does not protect the religious rights of any group that

I am opposed to the Govenor's method of rushing a critical social institution (marriage) which is not a matter of emergency, and would best be addressed during the normal general legislature session. To address this bill in such an rushed manner does not allow you to thoroughly grasp that marriage is not just hitching 2 people to legally live together but an institution involving the community and the support of the community. Because it is a communtiy involved institution, bill SB1 should reflect preservation of all democratic rights and not put the majority of the people under such restriction as to compromise their cultural and religious values. Please carefully examine all consequences which impact all people groups of social adjustments necessary for all who dwell in Hawaii in redefining marriage. Please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given more time than one week and allow to go through due process during the regular session where it can more thoroughly examined as all other bills.

Please take the time to hear the people who elected you, and to best serve and represent their voices and their rights. Voting "no" allows you to address this bill at a later time with careful consideration of consequences, costs socially and economically and to consider policies and administration adjustments which will not undermine democracy for the people at large.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

(Leona Lin)
(Honolulu, HI, and 96821)

From:	Emily Murphy
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Emily Murphy"s Testimony: I will Come and I want My voice to Be Heard!!!
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:50:25 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

In a sermon in 1961, Dr. Martin Luther King said when talking about different struggles within marriage, "...Family life is still the basic unit in the life of the nation, and on healthy family life depends the moral and spiritual life of the nation." I believe has Dr. king does, as it is my right to do so. For me and my beliefs the healthiest family's are those with a mom and dad whom have been married. I am free to believe as I chose and to uphold these beliefs according to my conscience, free from oppression. I believe that a man and a woman make up a foundation of a family and then if they choose, children come in and build upon that foundation. Traits skills and personality uniquely passed onto one child from a female and male parent-the yin and the yang so to speak.

I ask this question, not only to you in our government, but to all of you here today, those for Gay Marriage and those opposed to it. Why must civil unions be called marriage? If you have all the same rights financially and there are means for your family to be recognized by the state? Why is there is such a deep seeded need for you to get those who believe differently then you to be forced to change their thinking's through the institution which are fundamental important to their own religious beliefs? Why must you force the social change you want by the means in which you use the backdoor to restrict religious freedom?

If I lose my freedom to choose, so do you. Our Government did not create marriage, so why through the mask of civil rights and equality for all, is it being used to harm the values of its citizens?

If your way of life, that of Gay Unions and my Way of Life that of Traditional Marriage between man and woman, become one under the same title will you really be satisfied? Are you saying that for you to feel that your life counts and is good, I have to share your opinion, then maybe you don't believe in your life as much as you should. The psychology and thinking is faulty by its simplest terms. Just because I don't believe as you do, doesn't mean your life has no value why must you change how I think(That value is determined by your own heart), and just because you don't believe as I do doesn't mean that my life has no value, because in my heart My family has value-priceless value.(And I am not going to try and use laws to change your thinking in my direction.)

I don't know the oppression that those in the Gay community have faced, hate is ugly in all its forms, and under no circumstances should it be upheld or tolerated. People need to be free to follow their own conscience. This is not about my feelings about LGBT life and how people chose to live it. It is about a government that is now using laws to oppress my beliefs and force me into a new way of thinking.

If your looking for a title to validate your life you will never find it. Destroying my view of marriage and how I believe it fits into the universe doesn't make your view strong, it weakens it, and we both lose.

Maybe it bothers you that I believe as I do as, a professed Christian, with a strong belief in the plan of salvation for mankind through the institution of marriage between man and wife. Maybe it bothers me that you live as you do, but who cares what bothers us. We are All Americans and we have mastered the art of believing differently, yet remaining neighbors. Has not history taught us, improvement is needed, but don't mess with the constitution, which I am proud to say, was helped to come into the pages of history by my own family who fought in the revolutionary war, so that one day I could be free to believe in traditional marriage and that a dear brother of mine could believe differently-both free-to chose.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Emily Murphy
55-550 Naniloa Loop, #6083
Laie, HI

From:	Andrew Yasuhara
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Opposed to SB1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:05:54 AM

I am writing in opposition to SB1. I feel like we are circumventing the democratic process and are not allowing input from the public on such an important issue. I believe the right thing to do is to take it to a public vote and let the people decide.

Thank you,

Andrew Yasuhara

Sent from my iPad

From: jason murphy-tafiti
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:12:23 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I believe that this bill should be given proper time to be debated and voted on by the citizens of the state of Hawaii. As the bill exist it appears that the language is murky and can be left to wide range of different interpretations. Other states have passed similar bills, but have assured that religious organizations are protected.It is my belief that this bill would allow the government to violate the religious freedoms of religious organizations.

If the governor wants a bill such as this, then it should be held during a regular session. Instead it is being pushed through a special session during a Holiday season, when it is common knowledge that family's are busy with activity's.

The will of special interest groups should not superseded the rights and will of the people. And if you vote in favor of this bill then it places you also against the will of the people who have graciously allowed you to represent them. All people on both sides should be in favor of fare and representative governance.

Jason Murphy
55-550 Naniloa Loop #6083
Laie, HI
96762

--
Sincerely,

Jason

From:	Kacey Rollins
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Proposed bill
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:25:20 AM

Aloha-

I am concerned about the legislation being proposed for the State of Hawaii. There are a number of issues that deeply concern me. I would like to point out a few.

First, I believe marriage is defined between a man and a woman. I am not anti anything, but am pro traditional marriage. Just as has been legislated before, civil unions allow for same sex couples to have tax and legal rights. Marriage, by definition, is as I stated before, between a man and woman. We, the people of Hawaii, have stated this before. And marriage never goes out of fashion and does not change with trends or fads. The people have spoken. If that is in question, let them vote again.

Second, I strongly oppose a part of the bill that allows for same sex couples to be able to use private church facilities or institutions. Clergy and small businesses are affected too. There are many who feel so strongly that it is abhorrent before their God. Just as I would not force some of my Jewish or Muslim friends to have kalua pig in their place of worship, or force them to eat it, likewise, I'm dumbfounded that my elected representatives would force something on religions or religious institutions that is fundamentally against their beliefs. There are many places people can marry, and if a religion, a clergy member, business, or institution truly feels that it is against their belief, why is it being not only forced upon them, but also they will face penalties? Who is standing up for them? Who is being their voice? This seems like religious persecution. It should be stopped. And it seems only the legislature is being given the power to do so.

We are a nation that claims to respect religions. That was one of the very motivating and founding principles! Even one of the most dangerous and villainous people, Osama bin laden, was given a proper Muslim burial at sea. His religion was respected even when he was no respecter of men. And yet we are about to allow legislation pass that takes basic religious rights away from people, religions, and institutions that are uplifting, supportive, and contribute to the betterment of society (and in some cases, individuals and communities throughout the world), on the basis of sexual preference? Really?

Finally, some may say my point of view makes me a bigot. I say, in the simplest form, all of us possibly are. The point isn't to point fingers of right and wrong, but rather come to a solution where all can be happy. I know that place exists, but the option on the table is not it.

Please reconsider. Please take the time to revisit the pending legislation. The best solutions are not always rushed or pushed through quickly. We the people have a voice. We want a say. Please listen.

Warmest Aloha-
Kacey Rollins
Hawaii Kai

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	marshk59@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:25:15 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Marsha M Krieger	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: As a concerned citizen of the state of Hawaii, I am submitting my testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage. I fervently oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process and does not give voice to all the people of Hawaii. This bill instead addresses just a small special interest group. Especially now that the governor has added two more items to the agenda (an appropriation for Hawaii Health Systems and Funding of Collective Bargaining agreements achieved with UPW Unit 10 and HGEA Unit 13) I question how you can effectively and justly give the focused attention to this issue that Governor Abercrombie used as a 'motivation' to call the special session. Also, we the people of Hawaii do not have sufficient input into this process. Because there can be no amendments to the bill any concerns raised in testimony cannot be adequately addressed nor does the short time allotted for the session allow you the legislature to equitably deal with these concerns. Therefore, by passing the bill under these circumstances, the legislature will be making a mockery of the democratic process. I oppose this bill because on page 6 starting on line 4, the definition of church exemptions are too weak to guarantee our first amendment rights to the free exercise of religion. Many churches serve the community by allowing the usage of facilities for AA groups, parenting and/or marriage classes and sports and exercise classes that are open to the public. The language in SB1 is not strong enough to protect the churches from lawsuits or other challenges. I oppose this bill because I have serious concerns and questions regarding page 15 beginning at line 1 – 9. This section allows couples that do not live in Hawaii and are not taxpayers to pursue an action for annulment, divorce or separation in our state. I have serious and valid concerns about the impact this will have on our already weak economy. On page 12 beginning at line 15 572C-2 states that 'the legislature finds that the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage……as one man and one woman. This was only two years ago. We have not voted nor had town hall meetings to find out if this has changed. In 1998, the people only voted to allow the 'legislature to have the power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples' because we had no other choice. To not have accepted the poorly worded measure would have left the decision to our state judiciary, which had the Baehr v, Miike case pending. Voting to grant the power into the legislatures hands in 1998 was the lesser of two evils. A

‘yes’ vote in the special session is a ‘no’ vote to democracy because you are clearly not listening to the voices of the people of Hawaii, whom you have been elected to represent. These are just a few of the concerns I have about you voting into law possibly the most controversial issue of our time. The short time allowed for the special session and the extra issues that the governor has added prevents you the representatives of this great state from justly and adequately addressing the concerns to the people of the state of Hawaii. I request that you vote no or table this issue and bring it to a vote of the people Sincerely, Marsha M. Krieger

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Jarrell James Mahusay
94-543 Lumiaina Street #U201
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

I Vote **NO** to Senate Bill 1, authorizing same-sex marriage.

I am Christian and a former Naval Submarine Officer, who diligently served our country for 4 years. I currently manage a non-profit organization, Reveille Hawaii, aimed at connecting military members with the Hawaiian community. Our goal is to help with the epidemic of homelessness, drugs, and the needs of the Hawaiian people, through volunteerism, fund raising, and grateful hearts.

I am affected directly by this bill because of 3 reasons: It prohibits my core beliefs and my faith, which I have practiced all my life. It denies me my civil rights to choose, by vote, to disallow this bill. This bill also affects my livelihood and my ability to act upon my faith.

I have practiced Christianity since my birth on May 15, 1981. My family has practiced Christianity for generations dating back to our origins in the Philippines. My belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior requires us to live in such a way that we honor Him with the choices I make. Homosexuality is considered a Sin; not unlike drug abuse or alcoholism, all of which are defined by the Bible as immoral and should not be encouraged according to my faith practice. Same-sex marriage will significantly impact my ability to profess my faith through daily life as well as the lives of my future children by forcing my family to choose to follow the teachings of my God or to follow the law by condoning homosexuality. I will not and cannot follow any law that would be contrary to my beliefs as my resolve to follow my God and His teachings will supersede any law that maybe enacted. In spite of any decision by legislation, I will continue to live peacefully before all people regardless of their decision towards sexual orientation but I am incapable of recognizing any marriage not between a man and a woman. Marriage has been defined since ancient times as the union of a man and a woman, and whose purpose is the capacity to produce life naturally. Marriage has always been characterized by biblical terms, between man and woman, since the age of the Hawaiian kingdom. Hawaii must maintain a separation of church and state by denying passage of Senate Bill 1; marriage has always been a church institution regardless of faith background and is only recognized by the state through taxation purposes. For these reasons I must comply with the mandates by my God to proclude my faith and cannot endorse same-sex marriage.

This bill infringes my right to vote as defined by Amendment 18 of the U.S. Constitution. Although a previous bill permits the legislative body of the state of Hawaii to decide the validity of same-sex marriage, a bill whose affects of this magnitude should not be decided by an in accurate, and extremely small sample size of the state population represented only by a handful of legislative representatives. A vote of the people of Hawaii must be required in order to prove the desire of the

people to support this bill. Through the interactions of my non-profit organization and the Hawaiian people, I have determines that a cultural frustration of the people is the constant silencing of their voice and rights. This bill further exemplifies the neglect of the people to choose for themselves their desired course of governance. As a new and permanent resident of Hawaii for 3 years, I desire a chance to voice my vote and to vote no on this bill. Do not deny the people their voice, history has taught us that those who support the wishes of the people and their ability to choose are beloved and remembered, while those who deny the peoples right to choose are ostracized and culpable.

This bill directly affects my livelihood and the practice of my faith. My non-profit organization is based on Biblical principles, the act of giving, serving, comforting, and love towards all people regardless of race, creed, or sexual orientation. In conjunction with these principles are the directives to uphold morality as defined by the Bible, which include but are not limited to abuse prevention, poverty, as well as homosexuality. I am not able to carry out my duties as a Christian and a human being, to provide the quality of volunteerism, support, and care deserving of the people of Hawaii. God cannot use me effectively due to the prohibitions stated in Senate Bill 1. I should not be forced to choose between condoning homosexuality and following the commandments of my God. There are people who are indifferent to homosexuality and therefore may provide the services required of the LGBT community. Just as a customer has the ability to choose which business they want to purchase goods and services, retailers and service providers, whether profit or non-profit, should be able to determine morally what they determine to be right based on ancient and long standing principles. Today's capitalist society allows the consumer the right to determine whether a business survives or fails; if a place of business decides to uphold their Biblically moral beliefs and their belief is that the LGBT lifestyle is morally reprehensible then let their success or failure be determined by the patronage of the consumer and not by a law that has condemned them without the verdict of the consumer. Some may compare the disapproval of the LGBT lifestyle to racism, but LGBT is a lifestyle and not an intrinsic characteristic of a person such as their skin color. Just the same as no person is forced to accept a religion as a lifestyle, so should no person be forced to accept the LGBT lifestyle.

In conclusion, as a Christian and a contributing member of the Hawaiian people, I vote No to Senate Bill 1. This bill disagrees with the core of my faith which is also a lifestyle. It disagrees with my rights as a citizen of not only the United States but also as a citizen of Hawaii. It also disagrees with my livelihood and my ability to make a positive impact on the community. Finally, in Christianity, Jesus Christ was condemned to death by the Israelites, but because of their traditions, they were barred from making the decision to act upon His crucifixion. The people implored the help of the Roman governor Pontius Pilate to make the decision necessary to condemn Jesus to death. Pontius Pilate refused 3 times and finally he dipped his hands in water to symbolize that the blood of Jesus, an innocent man, would be on their hands and allowed the execution to take place. In the same way, hold yourself blameless for the decisions of the people. Allow the people of Hawaii to make this

choice because this will affect generations to come and you as legislators will walk amongst the people guiltless because you gave the people their vote and their rights. As our Leaders, in accordance with 2 Timothy 4:1-2, I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, Who will judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient, convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Testimony Against S.B. No. 1

We respectfully request that this bill be killed in your committee, as we are deeply concerned about the negative impacts of this bill and that there is not enough time to properly address them in this special session.

We believe that Marriage is a sacred, legal, and social union ordained by God to be a life-long, sexually exclusive relationship between one man and one woman. This was clearly voiced by the people of Hawaii in 1998 constitutional amendment. We do not know how this bill will affect our families, especially our children and their children, and our fragile economy, which is dependent of tourism. Based on information from Canada and other States that have passed similar measures to legalize "gay marriage" we do know that the negative impacts on families are great. We also know that the normalization of the gay lifestyle has made it into the public school curriculum. It has impacted churches, who have had to change their policies to restrict public use of their facilities, and have had to defend against frivolous lawsuits. We also know that it has impacted small business owners, who have expressed their personnel beliefs that marriage should be between one man and one woman. We do not know the legalization of same sex marriage will negatively impact our tourism market which depends heavily on visitors from Asia. We do know that these cultures are more conservative, and may be deeply offended.

I am concerned that the special session is pushing forward an issue and silencing the voice of the people. We are supposed to have a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. However, the special session does not allow adequate time to discuss such an important issue that so many feel deeply about. This issue should best be decided by a constitutional amendment so that it truly reflects the will of the people.

If not this issue should be properly vetted and discussed during the regular session. Please respect democracy and do not let the democratic process be circumvented.

Sincerely,

Eric and Janette Yuasa

Date: October 27, 2013

To: Sen. Clayton Hee
Sen. Maile Shimabukuro
Members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Opposition to SB 1 (Same Sex Marriage)

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I oppose SB 1 relating to same sex marriage and have listed some of my reasons below.

This issue is one that should be decided by the people of this state. Marriage between one man and one woman has been the foundation of society since the beginning of time. Such a drastic redefinition of marriage should require the consent of the people through a vote in 2014.

The religious exemption provisions do not adequately protect churches and do not offer protections to ministries, religious people who own businesses, and people of faith. Around the country, despite our Constitution and laws protecting religious liberty, people who hold traditional values on marriage and human sexuality are being persecuted, harassed, silenced, mocked, robbed of their constitutional rights and unjustly punished at increasingly alarming rates. Here are a few grievous examples.

1) Schools across the country indoctrinate children from kindergarten and on about same sex relationships and show hostility toward a religious view of marriage. See: http://blog.alliancedefendingfreedom.org/2013/07/09/public-schools-impacted-by-supreme-court-marriage-decisions/

2) Catholic Charities were forced to close rather than place children with same sex couples for adoptions/foster care (e.g., District of Columbia, Massachusetts). See: http://www.catholic.org/national/national_story.php?id=19017 and http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/same-sex_marriage_law_forces_d.c._catholic_charities_to_close_adoption_program/

3) Complaints have been filed against churches and ministries when same sex couples are denied use of facilities to celebrate/solemnize same sex unions. See: http://www.examiner.com/article/complaint-filed-against-christian-ministry-for-not-allowing-same-sex-marriage

4) Same sex couples have filed complaints against Christian business people who refuse to provide services for their same sex unions/marriages/commitment ceremonies. In at least one case, fines were levied against the Christian (e.g., a New Mexico photographer was fined over $6,000 for refusing to photograph a same sex couple's commitment service) and an Oregon bakery was forced to close due to the harassment of gay rights activists.

In Hawaii a lesbian couple sued a Bed and Breakfast when the owners refused to rent a room to them because of the owner's religious beliefs.

Fox Sports analyst, Craig James, was fired for his statement that gay people "would answer to the Lord for their actions."

See: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/04/16/hawaii-bed-and-breakfast-lesbian_n_3092203.html, http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/gay-couple-files-complaint-against-christian-bb-owners-for-refusing-civil-u and http://www.christianpost.com/news/court-to-hear-case-of-nm-photographer-fined-for-refusing-to-film-gay-ceremony-80205/ and http://now.msn.com/religious-baker-wont-make-same-sex-wedding-cake and http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2013/September/Oregon-Bakery-in-Gay-Wedding-Cake-Controversy-Closes-/ and www.huffingtonpost.com/...**fired**-fox-**anti-gay**_n_3886832.html

5) California has restructured the basic family unit, and now allows children to have multiple legal parents. It is unknown what the effect that will have on children.

See: http://www.latimes.com/local/la-me-brown-bills-parents-20131005,0,7226241.story

6) The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that the passage of DOMA was based on "animus" against gays, rather than as a genuinely held moral or religious viewpoint.

I believe this decision will result in further persecution and punishment of those people who believe that same sex relationships/unions/marriages are morally wrong (fines are being imposed and job performances adversely affected). This decision is an ominous warning that certain religious books like the Bible and religious speech on traditional marriage will be viewed as hate speech. The fundamental principles of democracy are being eroded by the courts tossing out legitimate laws passed by a legislative body or brought about by the people through a referendum process, and in the process subordinating religious liberty, parental rights, free speech and our democratic process to an atheistic or secular world view hostile toward persons with traditional values. See: http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2013/June/Faith-Community-Braces-for-Impact-of-Gay-Rulings/ and http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/12pdf/12-307_6j37.pdf

Adopting a secularized/atheistic world view has been destructive on our most fundamental constitutional rights of religious liberty, free speech, rights of privacy and the very essence of a democratic society, including parental rights. See below.

In California, starting January 1, 2014, a child in public schools K-12 will be permitted to use the bathroom and shower facilities based on said child's belief which sex matches his/her gender identity. This law not only violates the privacy rights of children, but it robs them of their innocence and the values many people of faith believe about modesty and the sanctity of human sexuality in the context of a heterosexual marriage. See: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/12/california-transgender-students-bill-_n_3745337.html.

In California and New Jersey, parents are prohibited from placing their children in therapeutic counseling to overcome same sex attraction (ban on reparative therapy). If a parent violates this ban, the NJ legislator who authored the bill emphatically said that we (the state) will take your kids away from you if you try to put them into reparative therapy. The law tramples on parental rights, and their religious liberty, as well as the free speech rights of therapists.

The Pentagon has classified evangelical Christians and Catholics as extremists alongside Al Queda and the KKK. Service members have been punished for stating (when asked) that they believe same sex marriage is morally wrong.

See: http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/apr/5/dod-presentation-classifies-catholics-evangelicals/?page=1 and http://townhall.com/columnists/toddstarnes/2013/08/20/airman-punished-for-opposing-gay-marriage-files-complaint-n1668889/page/2 and see also http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2013/September/New-LGBT-Protection-Law-Criminalizing-Believers-/

The State of California is now considering legislation (SB 323) to strip the Boy Scouts and other non-profit organizations of their tax-exempt status and to pay a use tax because they believe same sex relationships are morally wrong and don't allow adult gay scout leaders. If this happens, it would not be surprising that religious institutions who hold traditional views on human sexuality will be next

See: http://www.npr.org/2013/09/03/218572821/california-lawmakers-target-boy-scouts-tax-exempt-status and http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB323&search_keywords=

SB 1 is poorly drafted, and does not protect the religious liberty of individuals, their businesses and ministries. The exemptions offered to churches are minimal and inadequate.

In addition, as a practicing family law attorney, I am troubled by the parentage provision in SB 1, on page 5, lines 4-9 as it is defective and violates a biological parent's most fundamental constitutional rights. Also, allowing non-residents to file for divorce in Hawai'i appears to violate fundamental due process rights, in addition to overburdening our family courts already dealing with a large backlog of cases. My reasons will be discussed in more detail at the hearing.

Same sex couples already enjoy the benefits of marriage through the existing civil unions law. If a couple desires to receive federal benefits, the legislature can explore other avenues without infringing on the constitutional rights of the rest of our citizens and without passing a same sex marriage bill. In addition, such a process should benefit family members who want these federal benefits as well.

In light of the constitutional defects in the bill and other concerns, please vote no on SB1. Again, thank you for your service to our community and the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

SANDRA YOUNG
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 2897
Aiea, HI 96701
Telephone: (808) 487-8464

From: Namelelani Akiona
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Testimony opposing the SB1 Bill
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:39:59 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I come before you all humbly and with all of my aloha.

I am here to testify my freedom of religion against the Same-Sex Marriage bill. As a Christian, I do not condone or ignore sin nor am I here to judge or condemn anyone. Rather, I have come to share the love of God and the forgiveness of sins that is available to all humans, including the gay community, through Jesus Christ. This occasion is not a battle between Christians and the gay community, as Ephesians chapter 6 verse 12 says, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." And that is the reason why Christians have come here today.

I do understand the view point on equality and human rights but what is our purpose as humans? We must all have a purpose in order to recognize the possibility of good or evil or justice. Our purpose and destiny cannot be simply explained by biology or science or just death. Every human being feels hope in their heart for something perfectly good and divine. That is our human nature and through this bill, our purpose as humans become distorted, de-sacrilized, unconnected and insignificant.

The Truth is known because our creator, God, has made it plain. God's purpose of creation was that everything in itself would be sustainable. Nature itself argues against homosexuality because it is clear that men and women were designed to fit together sexually and procreation is clearly a purpose only a man and a woman can fulfill. And to give sanction to same-sex marriage would be to give approval to all immoral desires that are shameful, unnatural, lustful, and indecent which The Bible clearly and consistently condemns as sinful. Biblically speaking, marriage is ordained by God to be a lifetime union between a man and a woman, primarily for the purpose of building a family and providing a stable environment for that family. Same-sex marriage is a perversion of the institution of marriage and an offense to the God who created marriage.

Psychologists contend that a union between a man and woman in which both serve as good gender role models is the best environment in which to raise well-adjusted children, so let's

also decide not for ourselves but for our cherished generations to come, if this passes it will be difficult for them to discover their divinity, identity and Truth.
The United Stated has abandoned their official motto “In God We Trust.” When we abandon our trust in God, the web of evil becomes more entangling, puzzling, and confusing. But it is simple that we are all to “Fear God and obey His commands, for this is everyone’s duty” says Ecclesiastes chapter 12 verse 13. Let the people vote.

Mahalo and aloha to you all.

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I appeal to you as a woman, wife of a man, mother and grandmother to reconsider this rash action of passing a generation changing law. If you pass this law Hawaii will change. Change seems to be the goal of this administration but what kind of changes are we looking at? I have included in my testimony excerpts from articles about the kind of changes I see this legalization of unnatural acts will bring to our aina.
The first set of excerpts are about a murder of an innocent boy that was influenced by legitimizing sodomy. It is the story of Jeffrey Curley. Please read this if you are unaware of this case. One important point found In this information is that the homosexual marriage advocates fought for the right of NAMBLA to exist. NAMBLA who advocates for older men to have homosexual relationships with young boys of any age.

The second set of excerpts address what change will happen in our education system.
Students Given Graphic Instruction In Homosexual Sex By Brian Camenker and Scott Whiteman - Mass 2000 Times - May, 2000 Issue New s
This article explains what we can look forward to in Hawaii.

As an indigenous woman I only see this as another way to bring genocide against my people. If this "equality" is forced upon our young in the education system it will defile and bring confusion and destroy our genealogy. Hawaii has seen waves of invasions coming to her shores from outside. We must not let another in.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Deborah Ritsuko Bear Barbour
Kaneohe, Hawaii, 96744

Words of Jeffrey Curley's mother:

The last time I saw Jeffrey he was on his way over to my mother's house to wash our

dog.

We didn't know he had been hanging around in the local park with Sal Sicari and his "partner." They took him for a ride and let him steer the car. And they took him to nice restaurants to eat while we thought he was playing with

neighborhood children.

These perverts lured my little Jeffrey into their car that October day by promising him a new bicycle. They knew his bike had been stolen. But I had already told Jeffrey he'd have to wait until Christmas for a new bike. I wanted him to learn responsibility. But just think, if I had just bought Jeffrey a new bike, he might have been with us today. And I wonder if those perverts would've moved on to someone else.

When Jeffrey, in the back of Charles Jaynes' Cadillac, fought off Jaynes' sexual advances, Jaynes - nearly 500 pounds - sat on him and smothered his face with a gasoline-soaked rag.

I say smothered. But they said he fought for a good twenty minutes till the fumes finally burnt up his lungs.

Then they took Jeffrey's body to Jaynes' apartment and did to Jeffrey's corpse what he wouldn't let them do while he was alive.

Sal finally confessed the evening after they killed him, and after days of searching, police found his body in a river in Maine. Sal and Jaynes filled his mouth with lime and poured it all over his naked body, stuffed it into a 50 gallon Rubbermaid tub, filled the container with concrete, taped it closed, and then dumped it in the river.

Citing the First Amendment, the American Civil Liberties Union is

defending a group that supports pedophilia against a civil suit filed by the family of a molested and slain Massachusetts boy.

According to the Curley's suit, Jaynes was a member of NAMBLA under an alias at the time of the slaying. Jaynes, the plaintiffs say, had viewed the NAMBLA Web site shortly before the murder. NAMBLA literature showing members how to gain children's trust, gain access to children nationwide, and avoid police investigating pedophilia cases were also found in Jaynes' car and apartment, the lawsuit alleges.

The parents of 10-year-old Jeffrey Curley filed a wrongful death lawsuit seeking damages from the North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) for the 1997 rape and murder of their son.

Prosecutors said Jaynes and Sicari lured Jeffrey Curley into Jaynes' Cadillac with the promise of $50 and a bicycle on Oct. 1, 1997. They convinced two juries that the men suffocated, killed and then molested the child after he resisted sexual advances and then stuffed him a concrete-filled container. Jaynes and Sicari dumped the container in the Maine River.

Frisoli claims investigators uncovered Jaynes' diary where he admits having problems dealing with a desire to have sex with children. Jaynes later reveals that he felt NAMBLA's teachings validated his feelings.

Besides the diary, Frisoli says he has depositions from an ex-girlfriend and several close friends who testify that Jaynes was a heterosexual male who became obsessed with having sex with minors only after joining NAMBLA.

The following article was written by Scott Whiteman and Brian Camenker immediately

after the incident and was published in the May, 2000, issue of Massachusetts News.

Students Given Graphic Instruction In Homosexual Sex By Brian Camenker and Scott Whiteman - May, 2000 Edition Massachusetts News

"Fisting [forcing one's entire hand into another person's rectum or vagina] often gets a bad rap....[It's] an experience of letting somebody into your body that you want to be that close and intimate with...[and] to put you into an exploratory mode."

The above quotation comes from Massachusetts Department of Education employees describing the pleasures of homosexual sex to a group of high school students at a state-sponsored workshop on March 25, 2000.

On March 25, a statewide conference, called "Teach-Out," was sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Education, the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth, and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

Among the goals were to build more Gay/Straight Alliances in Massachusetts and expand homosexual teaching into the lower grades. Scores of gay-friendly teachers and administrators attended. They received state "professional development credits."

"Fisting [forcing one's entire hand into another

person's rectum or vagina] often gets a bad rap....[It's] an experience of letting somebody into your body that you want to be that close and intimate with...[and] to put you into an exploratory mode."

The above quotation comes from *Massachusetts Department of Education* employees describing the pleasures of homosexual sex to a group of high school students at a state-sponsored workshop on during **GLSEN-Boston's "TeachOut" Conference on March 25, 2000 held at Tufts University.** Approximately 200 young teens and 300 adults attended the day-long event. Kids were bussed in from high schools across Massachusetts.

Children as young as 12 were instructed by adults (state employees!) how to perform a range of dangerous and perverted homosexual sex acts.

These included: homosexual oral sex techniques, inserting one's entire hand in someone else's rectum, sado-masochism techniques, girls using "dildos" and rubbing their sex organs together, and more.

But the Massachusetts Legislature wasn't fazed. They caved in to the powerful homosexual movement. They have continued to fund radical "Safe Schools" programs in the Dept. of Education. And in 2006 the Legislature even wrote GLSEN into the general laws as a mandated member of the tax-supported Massachusetts Commission for GLBT Youth. This is the low opinion that our legislators have of your children.

Soon afterwards, the three state employees (whose voices are heard on the tapes) were fired by the Department of Education.

The homosexual movement responded by persuading a Superior Court judge to ban the playing of the tapes, and then initiating a lawsuit against Camenker, Whiteman, and Parents' Rights Coalition, claiming that they had violated an obscure and

antiquated Massachusetts wiretapping law, and seeking monetary damages. The "Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders" (GLAD) -- the same state-funded group that won the Goodridge same-sex "marriage" case -- went right into action.

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
INTERIM OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

A WRITTEN TESITIOMNY IN
OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Good Morning Senator Hee and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Amy Bento, a first generation Filipino American, daughter of an immigrant father who arrived in Hawaii in 1946 and a mother who immigrated in 1965. I was educated in the public school system and I am a graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I've been married to my husband for 20 years and have 3 beautiful children. Like many first generation children, I was taught the traditional values that are important to life: right and wrong, respect and dignity, marriage and family, service and love of neighbor. Values that I believe are ingrained in our human hearts, have passed through the generations, and have existed even before the US and State Constitutions. Throughout the years I have noticed the deterioration of traditional values and culture. I realized that the deterioration began with significant events that occurred prior to my formative years: the period of enlightenment with the idea that "man is the source of all knowledge", the sexual revolution, the use of artificial birth control, and no-fault divorce. These events resulted in an increase in sexual promiscuity, sexually transmitted diseases, depression, the rising cost of healthcare and most especially, broken families. They have catapulted our culture into a perpetual

"feel good" and "me" society, where doing what's right, personal responsibility and respect for the natural law of human existence are discarded and replaced with an attitude of selfishness and "what is right for me". All of these plus many other examples have led to an increase in DISRESPECT for OURSELVES AND what we're made to be, our fellow neighbor, of marriage and of life. And people wonder why so many say "Why is there so much violence in the world?" Marriage is not right for everyone. Marriage, by the laws of nature, is between a man and a woman. It is a unique relationship, not equal with any other, that enables children to maintain their natural right, and relationship to their mother and father. I have witnessed the marriage of my mother and father and their important and clear examples of femininity and masculinity which have had a positive impact in my relationship with others. Now more than ever we need to protect and strengthen natural marriage as it stands. Do not let the passage of "marriage equality" be one of those significant events that lead to further breakdown of the natural family, our community and our world.

Finally Senators and members of the committee I ask that this issue be brought to a vote by the citizens of this State, if otherwise, then for the sake of strong, and healthy families and communities, I ask for your opposition to SB1.

Thank you.
Very Respectfully,

Amy Bento
94-1165 Kaloli Loop
Waipahu, HI 96797

For more information on the FACTS on marriage: www.ruthinstitute.org,
https://www.facebook.com/TheRuthInstitute

From: Sharon R.
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:02:55 AM

October 28, 2013
Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage. I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process and does not give we, the people, sufficient input into the process.

I am particularly concerned that the religious exemption clauses are so sparse. Priest, pastors and churches are exempted under only very limited circumstances. There is no exemption for religious organizations, charities or fraternal societies, nor are there any exemptions for individuals. I am concerned that my First Amendment rights be protected in the process.

Finally, since we voted a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples, the only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide.

Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Respectfully,
Sharon Ramos
91-2033 Kaioli Street #3001
Ewa Beach, HI 96797
808-421-8823

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: dory96744@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:04:12 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Cathy Ahlo	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I will be verbally testifying at hearing.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Petition Supporting Traditional Marriage and Opposing Same Sex Marriage

We, the people of Hawai‘i, demand that our elected officials support the traditional definition of marriage as between one man and one woman, and to oppose any and all attempts to redefine marriage to include same sex couples and any other prohibitions set forth in the marriage statute. The institution of marriage has been the foundation of society since time immemorial, and ensures the continuation of the human race. The attempt to protect religious liberty and other constitutional rights through exemptions in the same sex marriage bill is wholly inadequate. These proposed exemptions will not stop the destructive effects of same sex marriage and the destructive effects of adopting a secularized/atheistic world view on our religious liberty, children parental rights, and free speech as well as the very essence of a democratic society. See Exhibit A.

Exhibit A

Overthrowing Milennia of Judaeo-ChristianValues for a Secularized Atheistic World View and the Destructive Effects of Same Sex Unions/Marriages/Relationships On Religious Liberty, Children, Parental Rights, Democracy and Free Speech

As mentioned in the Petition, it is our contention that the proposed exemptions to protect religious liberty are inadequate and will not stop the destructive effects of same sex marriage and the destructive effects of adopting of a secularized/atheistic world view on our religious liberty, children, parental rights, and free speech, as well as the very essence of a democratic society. The inevitable clash of values between traditional morality and sexual liberty demands that the government not take sides but instead require that tolerance be a two-way street protecting the rights of those with traditional morality to be free from compelled participation in activities they find to be violative of their religious liberty. *Julea Ward v. Ward*, ___ Fed.3rd ___ (6th Circuit 201__) Around the country, despite our constitution and laws protecting religious liberty, people of faith are being persecuted, harassed, silenced, mocked, robbed of their constitutional rights and unjustly punished. Here are just a few grievous examples.

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1) In California, starting January 1, 2014, children in public schools K-12 will be permitted to use the bathroom and shower facilities based on the child's belief which sex matches his/her gender identity. This law not only violates the privacy rights of children, but it robs them of their innocence and the values many people of faith believe about modesty and the sanctity of human sexuality in the context of a heterosexual marriage. See: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/12/california-transgender-students-bill-_n_3745337.html.

2) In California and New Jersey, parents are prohibited from placing their children in therapeutic counseling to overcome same sex attraction (ban on reparative therapy). If a parent violates this ban, the NJ legislator who authored the bill emphatically said that we (the state) will take your kids away from you if you try to put them into reparative therapy. The law tramples on parental rights, and their religious liberty, as well as the free speech rights of therapists.
See http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/29/california-gay-conversion-therapy-ban_n_3837922.html and http://libertycounsel.com/2013/08/families-under-siege-need-our-help-liberty-counsel/

3) San Antonio is proposing a bill to protect the LGBT but at the same time exclude folks who view homosexuality as morally wrong from getting elected to office and from getting a contract with the City. See: http://radio.foxnews.com/toddstarnes/top-stories/san-antonio-proposal-could-bar-christians-from-city-council.html

4) Schools across the country indoctrinate children from kindergarten and on about same sex relationships and show hostility for a religious view of marriage. See: http://blog.alliancedefendingfreedom.org/2013/07/09/public-schools-impacted-by-supreme-court-marriage-decisions/

5) Catholic Charities were forced to close rather than place children with same sex couples for adoptions/foster care (e.g., District of Columbia, Massachusetts). See: http://www.catholic.org/national/national_story.php?id=19017 and http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/same-sex_marriage_law_forces_d.c._catholic_charities_to_close_adoption_program/

6) Complaints have been filed against churches and ministries when same sex couples are denied use of facilities to celebrate/solemnize same sex unions. See: http://www.examiner.com/article/complaint-filed-against-christian-ministry-for-not-allowing-same-sex-marriage and

7) Same sex couples have filed complaints against Christian business people who refuse to provide services for their same sex unions/marriages/commitment ceremonies. In at least one case, fines were levied against the Christian (e.g., a New Mexico photographer was fined over $6,000 for refusing to photograph a same sex couple's commitment service) and an Oregon bakery was forced to close due to the harassment of gay rights activists. See: http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/gay-couple-files-complaint-against-christian-bb-owners-for-refusing-civil-u and http://www.christianpost.com/news/court-to-hear-case-of-nm-photographer-fined-for-refusing-to-film-gay-ceremony-80205/ and http://now.msn.com/religious-baker-wont-make-same-sex-wedding-cake and http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2013/September/Oregon-Bakery-in-Gay-Wedding-Cake-Controversy-Closes-/

8) Pentagon has classified evangelical Christians as extremists alongside Al Queda and the KKK. Service members have been punished for stating (when asked) that they believe same sex marriage is morally wrong. See: http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/apr/5/dod-presentation-classifies-catholics-evangelicals/?page=1 and http://townhall.com/columnists/toddstarnes/2013/08/20/airman-punished-for-opposing-gay-marriage-files-complaint-n1668889/page/2

9) The U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled that the enactment of DOMA was based on "animus" against gays, rather than as a genuinely held moral or religious viewpoint.

Comments: Many attorneys believe it will result in further persecution and punishment of those people who believe that same sex relationships/unions/marriages are morally wrong (fines are already being imposed, job performances already being adversely affected, and perhaps someday people of faith will be imprisoned). This decision is an ominous warning that certain religious books like the Bible and traditional religious teaching on marriage as between a man and a woman and human sexuality will be viewed as hate speech in the near future. In addition, many attorneys am concerned that the fundamental principles of democracy are being eroded by the courts tossing out legitimate laws passed by a legislative body or brought about by the people through a referendum process, and in the process subordinating religious liberty, parental rights, free speech and our democratic process to an atheistic or secular world view hostile toward persons with traditional values. See: http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2013/June/Faith-Community-Braces-for-Impact-of-Gay-Rulings/ and http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/12pdf/12-307_6j37.pdf

10) The State of California is now considering legislation (SB 323) to strip the Boy Scouts and other non-profit organizations of their tax-exempt status and to pay a use tax because they believe same sex relationships are morally wrong and don't allow adult gay scout leaders. If this happens, it is likely that churches will be next; and there will be less funds available for churches to fulfill their mission. Moreover, donors who give to churches will not be able to claim a tax deduction.

See: http://www.npr.org/2013/09/03/218572821/california-lawmakers-target-boy-scouts-tax-exempt-status and http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB323&search_keywords=

These judicial, legislative and executive acts are the beginning of tyranny and an assault on the basic constitutional rights of the majority of the people of this country. Do not allow tyranny to reach the shores of our aina.

Vote No on same sex marriage.

Carol Parker
PO Box 25714
Honolulu, HI 96825

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

1. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion, and ultimately also denies individual citizens the right of free speech and lawful assembly.
2. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively.
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5. It fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members from lawsuits.
6. It is fast-tracked through a process that does not offer Neighbor Island individuals the opportunity to present testimony in person.
7. It appears to be the act of the State of Hawaii Executive Branch and the Legislature to put the 'wants' of non-residents of Hawaii over the needs and will of residents of the people of Hawaii and the registered voters of Hawaii.
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9. It appears to be the first act of a legislative body being forced to pass legislation by an Executive Branch attempting to show its first step in showing its power over the people of Hawaii.
10. It excludes legislative representatives of some registered voters of Hawaii the process and opportunity to vote on the legislation. This violates the US Constitution guaranteed right for the people to be represented in the legislation process.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Carol Parker
Registered Hawaii Voter

From:	Sharon Nagasako
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Testimony in Opposition to SB1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:09:22 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Sharon Nagasako

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1

Dear Chair Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Senator Maile Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee:

I am opposed to SB1 for a number of reasons, the first and foremost being that Almighty God, the Creator of our Universe, also created the institution of marriage to be the union between a man and a woman.

Since none of us here today is God, who are we to change His definition of marriage? And yet, sadly, there are some who are battling to do just that.

During the past several weeks, Hawaii's legislators have been inundated with facts, figures, and statistics from both sides of this marriage issue. You have probably heard or read it all, so I will not add to your information overload.

I would just like to let you know that while I was gathering petition signatures to oppose both same-sex marriage and the Special Session, while most people were opposed to this Special Rights Bill, everyone I spoke with was infuriated that this Special Session was being convened.

Comments ranging from "Why don't the legislators just wait a couple months until January to take up this bill? "to "Why don't they put the money for the Special Session to better use - like to help the schools?" or "We already have a Constitutional Amendment that gave the legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples. Who do the legislators think they are to change what we already voted on in 1998?"

So, on behalf of the people out there throughout our islands, from all walks of life, who signed those petitions, I ask that you listen to your constituents and vote NO on SB1. But even better, be a good steward of the trust the voters have put in you, as well as those hard-earned taxpayers' dollars, and cancel this Special Session. Because one day you, too, will be just constituents, like we are...would you like to be treated the way you are treating us?

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Sharon Nagasako

Honolulu, HI

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	cindy5303@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:15:29 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Cindy Arakaki	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Cindy Arakaki 95*124 Lokihi Street Mililani, Hawaii 96789 808.542.5303 cindy5303@gmail.com Subject: Special Session On Same Sex Marriage As a constituent of District # MILILANI I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue. As a voter in the district you represent, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process. It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent. In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the constituents of District MILILANI . I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision making and that He will continue to encourage you in all that you do. God Bless, Cindy Arakaki

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony Special Legislative hearing, same sex marriage. HB 1 and or SB 1.

Opposition, October 27th, 2013

From Tula and Cam Cavasso, Retired State Representative.

Dear Committee Chairmen and members,

We address our opposition to and ask you to vote against this bill for two key reasons.

Number one this bill attacks the freedom of faith, the freedom of religion, a fundamental right so important to our nations value system that it was specifically covered in our Bill of Rights by the very First Amendment to our US Constitution before ratification. "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, neither shall it deny the free exercise thereof". This bill has the effectual result of denying the free exercise of faith or religion by individuals, organizations, businesses, schools, churches, synagogues, or places of worship.

Number two, this bill as written has the secondary effect of reverse discrimination against those who by faith and religious written doctrine believe in specific sexual moral values and behavior respecting their families, parenting, relationships, home building, education, and daily practices in every aspect of life. This bill effectively grants or places into law a preferred "Civil Rights" status based on a moral or chosen behavior lifestyle to the exclusion of other moral lifestyles beliefs and values, far beyond the immutable characteristics of regular civil rights protections such as for race, gender or national origin which are based not on action or morality, but on birth.

Comment [CC1]:

Proponents of this bill claim the religious exclusion or exemptions will protect people of faith and religious values, practices and churches. This claim of protection is untrue.

The so called religious protection clauses neither effectively protects religious free speech and lifestyle nor does it protect their freedom of assembly in religious social settings or churches.

This bill as proposed will effectively serve to quell free speech and assembly based on the moral values relating to sexuality, marriage, family and every other aspect of our Hawaii community. The chairman of the Hawaii Civil Rights commission has already publicly expressed sentiments making it clear that if this bill is passed into law that he will use it drag into court by lawsuit, individuals, business people and leaders of assemblies, pitting them against the financial and intimidating power of the State. In other words it is apparent that this bill, if passed, will be used to quell free religious speech.

The subject, wording and ramifications of this bill need much greater study both of impact and long term ramifications including its unintended consequence in all aspects of our community.

We have addressed only two of many reasons to recommit this bill for reconsideration in the Regular Session beginning in January for the much more detailed study of the current and future consequences it deserves. Please do not rush this highly emotional and complicated subject to half considered action.

We respectfully ask you to you hold this bill.

Carol Parker
PO Box 25714
Honolulu, HI 96825

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
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10. It excludes legislative representatives of some registered voters of Hawaii the process and opportunity to vote on the legislation. This violates the US Constitution guaranteed right for the people to be represented in the legislation process.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Carol Parker
Registered Hawaii Voter

From: Hibbard Fishies
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: SB 1 Marriage Equality Bill
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:34:42 AM

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

MEASURE NO. : SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights
DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
TESTIFYING IN PERSON

I am grateful to our government which has established a system to allow a common person, such as myself, to speak today.

I have learned over time that life is not about me as I have dedicated more and more of my life to helping the rising generations. I received a bachelors degree in engineering, however I have also spent my career life dedicated to our five children, ages 16 - 2 years old. I have volunteered many hours to various schools to help children in many different capacities. I have also taught hundreds of children how to swim, in hopes of giving them a vital, life saving skill. I have dedicated to countless hours to children, our rising generation.

As you know, we are here today to discuss the Marriage Equality Bill. There are within this document several lines that concern me and will directly affect my life, my children's lives, our communities and the rising generation after us.

Currently, I enjoy the freedoms of worshipping God, Almighty, as I please. I have tried my best to seek peace and happiness, as best as I can, in this life. I have tried to do what I feel God would have me do and in doing so, a great sense of peace has come to my conscience knowing that I have tried very hard to do what is right. Sometimes it is hard to do what is right, even on a day like today. To do something knowing others will be upset with me and disagree and maybe even discriminate against me, for what I am to say.

I state these things because in this matter of this Marriage Equality Bill, each of us are asked to make decisions regarding how the rising generations will grow up and come to know the world. Each of us, I believe, wants to feel peace to our conscience and therefore, we each need to make decisions today for what is best for our communities, societies and our great State of Hawaii.

I am concerned about my religious freedoms. With this Marriage Equality Bill they are to be limited and constrained so that I am no longer allowed to believe what I may without punishment and discrimination.

As you know, the Constitutional Amendment clearly states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech,..."

Is this not why the pilgrims from Western Europe left their homelands, so they could worship according to their own conscience and not what the government of their lands dictated?

Were not the Founding Fathers of this country so very conscientious to allow the people to worship and believe as they please?

Why is it now, that the government wants to take away these freedoms and rights so carefully preserved and set in motion?

If we want to continue to preserve our religious freedoms, that were deemed important to others, and even to people living today, like myself, then we need to protect these religious freedoms by the laws of our land for the safety and well being of all, even those, like our children, who cannot speak today.

I believe what Dr. Russell M. Nelson said earlier this month. "In our day, civil governments have a vested interest in protecting marriage (between a man and woman) because strong families constitute the best way of providing for the health, education, welfare, and prosperity of rising generations. But civil governments are heavily influenced by social trends and secular philosophies as they write, rewrite, and enforce laws."

I also believe what Prophet Spencer W. Kimball said, when he quoted from Dr. Paul Popenoe in 1972. That a "strong family life is indispensable, not

merely to the culture but actually the survival of any people. In the history of mankind one nation after another has followed this pattern (of degrading the family life and substituting other patterns for it) and they have disappeared...for the well being of the community, for the very existence of the nation, one of the first questions asked about any proposed change in culture should be, 'Will it strengthen the family?' " 2

The established religion I am a part of, made a worldwide declaration in 1995 stating "We the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children. ....The first commandment that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife. ... We further declare that God has commanded that the sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife." 3

I believe this. This is what my "established religion" declares and believes. This Marriage Equality Bill directly "prohibits the free exercise" to follow this belief and declaration.

The temples that are a part of my organized and established religion only preform marriages between a man and a woman as husband and wife. With this bill, as stated, our church and established religion will suffer. Lawsuits will follow, we won't be able to worship and live and believe what we feel is true and what God's commandments are, without penalty, discrimination and punishment.

I don't want same-sex marriages in our communities. By allowing same-sex marriages into our society, this will alter our way of life too drastically. Universities with married student housing will need to recognize all married couples, however, because of our religious beliefs, that marriage is between a man and a woman. The private University would rather shut down as a University, than allow same-sex couples to live together, because we don't feel these marriages are of God.

I don't want same-sex marriages in our communities because I do not believe

God wants them in our communities. This is what I interpret from the Old Testament from the Bible, specifically Genesis 19, when the men of Sodom converse with Lot.

I don't want same-sex marriages in our communities because sometimes we start something, not fully understanding all of the implications that would follow in the initial process. I strongly feel this is one of those things. We do not know all the implications that will effect our communities or for the rising generations. We only know from the study of past societies that un-natural relationships, or same-sex relationships cause those societies to break down so that they no longer exist. Actually, I am sure there are some who know much more in details, what I just tried to convey, like Dr. Paul Popenoe. But that is the bottom line, something happens so that their communities don't exist any longer. The family, with a husband and wife, man and woman, is what survives.

Please protect my religious freedoms. Please act in a manner that your soul will have a peace of conscience. Please think how this will drastically change the basic building block of our societies for the past centuries. Please don't think of yourselves, but the rising generations, asking 'Will this Marriage Equality Billl strengthen our families?" And please consider the religious freedoms this bill is imposing upon, especially my established religion and how I worship, believe and live.

May peace be with you as you make these critical decisions that alter life as we know it today. And if I may, I would like to close my testimony on a religious note, quoting the Master "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27

1. Russell M. Nelson, "Decisions for Eternity" (General Conference Report, October 2013), lds.org/general-conference/2013

2. Spencer W. Kimball, "The Family Influence" (General Conference Report, April 1973), lds.org/general-conference/1973

3. "The Family: A Proclamation to the World," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2010, 129.

From: Hibbard Fishies
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: SB 1 Marriage Equality Bill
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:40:22 AM

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

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3. "The Family: A Proclamation to the World," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2010,

129.

To:	Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time:	Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:	Capitol Auditorium
Re:	Opposition to SB1, Special Session

Dear Chairman Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Owen Matsunaga. I am currently serving as a stake president for the Mililani Hawaii Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which has approximately 3200 members. I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Senate Bill SB1. I know that most, if not all, of the members of my stake feel similarly.

I was born and raised here, being a graduate of Farrington High School. Since I graduated high school many years ago, a lot of things in Hawaii have changed: some for the better, some for worse. SB1 represents a change that will be bad for Hawaii, its culture, its traditions, and especially its *ohana.* With an issue that will change the very fabric of our community, why are the governor and many of our legislators in such a rush to change what the people had clearly expressed their will on in 1998?

The legalization of same-sex marriage is contrary to my religious beliefs and those of many other voters in Hawaii. I also believe it will undermine the vital traditional marriage norm that is so essential to the welfare of our children and the health of our family-centered culture.

SB 1 would not only redefine marriage and family, but would also eviscerate the religious freedoms that have been an integral part of our nation and state. The inadequacy of religious freedom protections in SB 1 is highlighted in the letter sent to all of the legislators under the letterhead of Edward Gaffney, Jr., of the Valparaiso University School of Law, but which also included other leading legal scholars on both sides of the same-sex marriage debate. [A copy of that letter is attached to this testimony.] The conclusion by such scholars was that Hawaii's bill, which is similar to SB 1, "provides considerably less protection than most every other jurisdiction where the legislature has considered the issue." The safeguards deemed essential by such scholars include not only protections for religious organizations and related entities, but also protections for individuals and small businesses. Moreover, even if limited to religious organizations, proper protections should not be narrowly limited to the context of "solemnization" but must include related "celebrations" and events. By ignoring the advice of such legal experts and pushing forward with SB 1 without robust safeguards for religious liberty, the legislators are warned that it will lead to "socially divisive and entirely unnecessary conflicts." That is simply not the way things are done in Hawaii.

I strongly urge you to reconsider and vote against SB 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,
OWEN H. MATSUNAGA
95-501 KUANONI WAY
MILILANI, HI 96789

From: Eldean Kukahiko
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: testimony in OPPOSITION of SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:49:55 AM

Testimony regarding SB1, Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman, Committee on Judiciary and Labor hearing 10/28/13 @10:30am

I am against this bill and here are my reasons:

1. I believe this special session is being rushed and needs time to be analyzed, scrutinized and thoroughly thought through. I believe Governor Abercrombie is rushing the special session to appease but a small minority of group. Look at the Civil unions. To date, I believe there are 918 couples who are in this union which represents 1836 couples. Now compared to our 808 State population of 1.3 million people, I believe this is not a great representation or worth the rush on this long standing immoral issue.
2. I believe our children will be most affected. If you take a look at the other States who allow Gay and Lesbian marriages, our children will be taught these despicable acts of indecency in the school levels with parents not being able to voice opposition without repercussions. Not allowed to know when these's acts will be presented in school before my child and not allowed to dismiss my child during these atrocities-(extreme evil or cruelty). Where are my rights? Where are the rights of my child? Please take your precious time to look up www.MassResistance.org.
3. I believe marriage should be reserved between a man and woman. I believe God created man and women in his image, in his image God created man. Called to multiply and be fruitful. How are we to multiply if we allow this type of behavior. It is humanly-(within the limits of human ability) impossible.
4. I believe this is an unhealthy lifestyle which our precious State will be held accountable to medically fund. We have rules and laws against taking drugs like Marijuana, cocaine and the like which are unhealthy. We wanted a law to protect people from drinking sugary drinks with heavy taxes, based on the amount of sugar content because it is "unhealthy." Yet we will allow same sex couples the right to marry with "unhealthy" outcomes?

I thank you for your Mr. Senator Clayton Hee and your committee for taking your time to hear the few words I have to share. Please, Please, Please for the sake of my children, your children, our future generation, think this through and do not rush on this important issue. Take the time to look into the other States who have same sex marriage and the ramifications they are facing. Take the time to hear our words, our voices, our hearts. It is not out of hate that I voice my opposition. I love the person but do not like the acts that will be pressed upon my children. I am only a father who is trying to protect the lives of my children and future generations.

May God bless our State. May God bless our nation. May God have mercy on us.

Mr. Kalae Kukahiko, Registered Voter
41-854 Ala Koa street
Waimanalo, HI 96795

From: Eldean Kukahiko
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: testimony in OPPOSITION of SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:49:55 AM

Testimony regarding SB1, Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman, Committee on Judiciary and Labor hearing 10/28/13 @10:30am

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Mr. Kalae Kukahiko, Registered Voter
41-854 Ala Koa street
Waimanalo, HI 96795

Calvin and Myra Taketa
94-144 Holanialii Place
Mililani, HI 96789
October 22, 2013

FAX TO:

Hawaii State Legislators
Hawaii State Capitol

RE: HAWAII MARRIAGE EQUALITY ACT OF 2013

As lifetime residents and citizens of Hawaii, we wish to voice our **opposition** to the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Please consider the following reasons, of which the excerpts below were taken from a letter written by our daughter, Kathryn Taketa-Wong, to her respective legislators. We do so with her verbal permission:

"The current language in the draft bill does **not** grant adequate protections against lawsuits and other litigation for religious entities whose beliefs would be violated if they were forced to solemnize same-sex marriages (see pages 6 & 7 in the bill).

"In order for churches to protect themselves from being forced to do something against their beliefs they would have to meet *all of the following three requirements:*

"1. Regularly use their facilities for religious purposes. (Religious organizations that allow their facilities to be used for neighborhood board meetings, AA meetings, pick-up basketball games, birthday parties, [graduation celebrations, wedding receptions, funerals] and other non-religious purposes will no longer be protected.)

"2. Limit their marriages to *only members*. (If a religious organization allows non members to participate in the marriage ceremonies, then they will no longer be exempted. Example: a member of a congregation marries a person that is not a member of the same congregation.)

"3. Not operate as a for-profit business. (Religious organizations that rent out their facilities will not be protected.)

"However, if any religious organization or their affiliates are considered to be a public accommodation, they will no longer be protected regardless of whether they qualify for the above protection. The current language of this bill places churches and religions at increased risk of fines, charges and litigations.

"A 'public accommodation' is any place or service made available to the general public. Many religious facilities can be considered as public accommodations, thus disqualifying them from any protections offered by the bill against lawsuits and litigation. According to Hawaii Civic Rights Commission (HCRC), a state department that is responsible for investigating civil rights complaints, a public accommodation is 'a business, accommodation, refreshment, entertainment, recreation, or transportation facility of any kind whose goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations are extended, offered, sold, or otherwise made available to the general public as customers, clients, or visitors.' HCRC could view churches as public accommodations as most churches welcome visitors to their Sunday services, recreational activities, and etc.

"Governor Abercrombie stated on his FAQs [sheet] that it will be determined on 'a case-by-case basis.' He also states: 'A religious organization remains subject to the public accommodations code if the organization allows the public to use a facility run by a religious organization, such as a meeting room.' Religious entities may be forced to choose between following their faith or facing lawsuits, fines, or penalties. The public accommodations laws also do not have a for-profit requirement and thus can be broadly applied.

"Hawaii's bill is by far the most extreme in comparison to any of the other states that have already legalized same-sex marriage. Hawaii's bill offers limited religious protections. For example, in comparison to Washington's laws, a very liberal state, their law explicitly states that even if a religious organization is considered a public accommodation, they cannot be sued.

"We also have concerns with the Governor calling a special session to pass this bill which does not allow the people of Hawaii as many opportunities to give their input & amend the bill as during a regular session. Governor Abercrombie set the special session for five days, the minimum amount of days allowed by law. As a result, there will only be one hearing [each] for the House and Senate for people to testify. No amendments will be accepted because it would prolong the process. There will also be no committee hearings held on the neighboring islands. Residents on the neighbor islands will need to fly into Oahu before Monday in order to testify in front of our legislators during this special session. During a regular session, there are at least four to five hearings, four opportunities for the public to testify, and four opportunities for the public to submit amendments. During the standard session bills are reviewed and revised many times. This special session limits the amount of time to review a bill, as well as the chance for the general public to voice their concerns and suggest amendments to the bills."

We are asking you to please seriously consider the ramifications and consequences of Hawaii's rushing into what appears to be outwardly a "politically correct" solution that, in the long term, will be more problematic in upholding and pursuing our Constitution's foundational First Amendment right: Freedom of religion – that our Government "shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or **prohibiting the free exercise thereof.**"

We ask that you **NOT SUPPORT** the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Very Respectfully Yours,

Calvin and Myra Taketa

WE THE UNDERSIGNED HAVE READ AND DO SUPPORT THE STATEMENTS MADE HEREIN:

NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS

WE THE UNDERSIGNED HAVE READ AND DO SUPPORT THE STATEMENTS MADE HEREIN:

NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
Jennifer Kim Derrick Kim	/S/ Jennifer Kim for Kim Family	94-321 Alula Place Mililani, HI 96789
Jennifer Altman Quince Altman	/S/ Jennifer Altman for Altman Family	95-080 Kuahelani Avenue Mililani, HI 96789
James L. Flynn Mieko N. Flynn	/S/ James L. Flynn for Flynn Family	95-265 Alaalaa Loop Mililani, HI 96789
Kulia Lehano Leroy Lehano	/S/ Kulia Lehano for Lehano Family	95-1040 Lalai Street Mililani, HI 96789
Faith Kwock	/S/ Faith Kwock	94-438 Keaoopua Street #36A Mililani, HI 96789
Nina Yoshida	/S/ Nina Yoshida	95-282 Hakupokano Loop Mililani, HI 96789
Ann Yoshida	/S/ Nina Yoshida in her absence (currently a full-time graduate student at Pacific University, Washington State)	95-282 Hakupokano Loop Mililani, HI 96789
Dale Yoshida	/S/ Dale Yoshida	95-282 Hakupokano Loop Mililani, HI 96789
Beatrice Amantiad	/S/ Beatrice Amantiad	569 Kulia Street Wahiawa, HI 96786
Jennifer Domingo	/S/ Jennifer Domingo	95-1035 Koolani Drive #68 Mililani, HI 96789
Wendy Sanborn	/S/ Wendy Sanborn	95-2048 Waikalani Drive #D-202 Mililani, HI 96789
Sandy Sua	/S/ Sandy Sua	95-314 Waianuhea Place Mililani, HI 96789
Kevin Sua	/S/ Kevin Sua	95-314 Waianuhea Place Mililani, HI 96789
Paulette Akuna	/S/ Paulette Akuna	95-2048 Waikalani Place #D-202 Mililani, HI 96789
Debra Anthony	/S/ Debra Anthony	569 Kulia Street Wahiawa, HI 96786
Larry Anthony	/S/ Larry Anthony	569 Kulia Street Wahiawa, HI 96786
Tysha Anthony	/S/ Tysha Anthony	569 Kulia St. Wahiawa, HI 96786

RESPONDED VIA EMAIL:

Priscilla and Peter Sy	95-206 Auhaele Loop Mililani, HI 96789

NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS

RESPONDED VIA EMAIL:

Gloria and Dieter Pfister	95-206 Auhaele Loop Mililani, HI 96789
Carol and Henry Kaona	94-250 Paeloahiki Place Mililani, HI 96789
Jordan and Katrina Hansen for the Hansen Family	94-302 Kealakaa St Mililani, HI 96789
Kimberly and David Miyamoto	Wehew, ehe Loop, Mililani, HI 96789
Annette and Dennis Wong	94-302 Kaaei Place MililaniHI 96789
Robert Crowell for the Crowell Family	94-741 Meheula Parkway #20D Mililani, HI 96789
Isileli and Deseret Nau for the Nau Family	95-648 Naholoholo Street Mililani, HI 96789
Jared and Celeste Wong for the Wong Family	94-333 Hokuahiahi St. Mililani, HI 96789
Rae Vaoifi for the Vaoifi Family (Samita, Rae, Zion and Teah)	94-112 Keahilele St. Mililani HI 96789
Randi Thompson for the Thompson Family	94-299 Keaolani St. Mililani, HI 96789
Elodie McCormick for McCormick Family	95-509 Poiki Place Mililani, HI 96789
John and Kelly Meyers	94-553 Alapoai St. #162 Mililani, HI 96789
Noella Querubin and Alika Querubin	95-146 Kipapa Dr. #9 Mililani, HI 96789
Karla Akiona for Akiona Family	94-370 Hokuahiahi St. Mililani, HI 96789
Kawai Silulu for Silulu Family	94-370 Hokuahiahi St. Mililani, HI 96789
Moani Fields for Fields Family	95-1061 Kaapeha St. #92 Mililani, HI 96789ko
Anita and Rudy DelaCruz	94-274 Kuanalio Loop Mililani, HI 96789
Aiko Tobosa	95-031 Kuahelani Avenue #239 Mililani, HI 96789’
Ann and Hale Thornock	95-589 Wailoa Loop Mililani, HI 96789

Date: Oct. 27, 2013

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Glenn V. Butler. I reside at 87-320 Kulawae Street, Waianae, HI 96792. As a family man, having served in the U.S. Army for 23 years, and a resident of the State of Hawaii, I stand in opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality.

I am one of two children born to my parents in Cleveland, Ohio. Today, I am married, and have seven (7) children of my own. Some of whom are also married, and also have children of their own!

My purpose in mentioning this is not to rehearse, in part, my family lineage. But to demonstrate that, if it were not for my parents being a man and a woman, and my wife and I being a man and a woman, and my married children being married to the opposite sex, it would not be possible for me, or my children, or their children to exist!

Sir, I even submit that somewhere along your lineage, you, your children, your children's children, and so on, would also cease to exist were it not for marriage of the opposite sexes! Had a bill like this been passed before our existence, I daresay that you and I might not even be alive to consider such a bill today!

Honorable Chair, and members of the Committee, as I review your membership, I believe that many of you were raised with the same societal morals and values that were normal during our upbringing. No argument or doubt that norms have changed, and are being challenged for more change as time progresses. I believe that change in many areas of our lives is inevitable. But I also believe that all change is not beneficial or good.

In the final analysis, SB1 is not just about equality. Throughout the history of mankind, there are numerous examples of the complete destruction of societies allowing or adopting the same-sex way of life. Although I believe it's in-part because of declining morals of the society. It is also all too obvious that where there is no pro-creation between same sexes, population also declines...eventually to non-existence!

That's not the end-purpose for which I honorably served in the armed forces of my country. Nor the reason that I nurtured and raised a family in the this country. Nor the reason I reside in the State of Hawaii. Where I decided to retire, continue raising my family, and productively serve in the community I reside. Where the State Motto says "The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness'!

As an Afro-American, I can give a heartfelt, fully-documented testimony of the inequality and injustices suffered by others of my race, as well as other minorities in this country...and in this State. But in all of those cases, I cannot see where the morals and values of a people, even though challenged, were changed to suit or support the views of a few over the good of the masses.

The United States of America, and the State of Hawaii, is made up of a diversified group of people. Many races. Many cultures. Many ideas and philosophies. In my lifetime, I've depended upon our leaders to decide what's best for the masses. Understanding that everyone is not going to be satisfied with how things go. I submit that, although an honorable endeavor, it's an impossible task to please everyone. It's been the same in my household. As well as every area of my life, both personally and professionally.

You are the governing body in whom it's been entrusted the ability to make decisions which will affect the quality of life for my family and I, and the people of Hawaii. Being a servant of people, I understand the importance of knowing the heartbeat of the people. Thereby being able to make decisions that will provide the quality of life that the 'voice of the people' have expressed is desired for them.

I remind you of your responsibility to the people as a whole. Not just to a few that have special interests that will not benefit the whole. With all due respect, if it's not clear to you what it is that the people of the State of Hawaii want in regards to SB 1 on Equality. Then vote NO on this issue during this special session. And let the people have the opportunity to vote and decide on SB 1. Thank you.

Sincerely,

GLENN V. BUTLER

CONCERNED CITIZEN

MSG (RET) ARMY

From: Lance Pagador
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Oppose SB - 1 Redefining Marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:55:20 AM

I am in opposition of what you, my elected officials, are calling an "Equal Rights" bill. It is interesting that you have decided to call it equal rights when it is purely trying to redefine what our society, culture, and even government has known it's meaning to be between one male and one female. The most logical and enduring definition known to mankind. For this reason and other cunnings political tactics you have chosen to exercise to push this bill through I strongly oppose.

1. Why call a special session. Yes, the govern says the benefits for a very few will be recognized at year end is needed. What about my rights that you are planning to change. What about my freedoms that you are planning to change. Am I not a citizen of this State?
2. My mom who is in her late 70's and my dad who is his late 80's both live and the Big Island and wanted to make their voices heard in opposition of this bill, but you are not letting them or any other citizen of this state speak to you directly in a hearing. Whoever thought about that plan to not hear the people definitely is not fulfilling their elected duties.
3. Too many examples of freedoms and rights are being changed for those who do wedding services, our children's educational material, and opening the door to other relationships such as plural marriages, multiple partner marriages, and etc.
4. Since 2011 when the Civil Union law was passed how many of the approx. 1,000 couples that took advantage of the law where from Hawaii? You say this is for Hawaii. You say that this represents "Aloha". I say that this is not for Hawaii because only a few have since participate in Civil Union (Many we not residence of Hawaii), and even those few who chose to live that life style as residence, have not sought civil union. I am Hawaiian (My Mom) and Filipino (my Dad) that word Aloha represents love and respect to all, not "I will take away your rights and freedom" because of only a few.
5. This bill has only confirmed my fears of my elected office. Richard Fale hears my voice. Clayton Hee, who I voted for does not. Many of you hide your deep rooted views for same-sex marriage when you ran for office. You now sit in a powerful position to impose on me, my families, and especially the children of the future your personal views. You call that good sound political tactics. I call it deceit and dishonesty.

This list can go on and on. It is interest to following the various different amendments to this bill when all of you who were in favor of the original draft wanted to jump on it as written to call it law. Only because of the voices you have heard recently have caused you to change the language. I plead with you to allow due process for this matter. Much more discussion and

even hearings are necessary to write good sound policies. Please allow the residence of Hawaii to choose their future not outsiders and/or large corporation/organizations.

Lance K. Pagador , my daughters Cameron – 12, MacKenzie - 8, and son Jackson – 6
P.O. Box 17
Laie, HI 96762

Dear respectful Senators and Representatives,

My name is Phoebe Ho, a Kaimuki citizen. Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion on equality relating to marriage.

Can same sex marriage be the same as the marriage between a man and a woman?

Marriage between a man and a woman and marriage between the same-sex are NOT equal.

This is because true marriage, when defined, should be natural and humane.

1. True marriage is natural. Since mankind was created, the marriage between a man and a woman has existed. It brings a man and a woman together as husband and wife, to be a mother and father to the children that union produces. It has brought you and me to this blessed and beautiful world. Our generation to come can also testify the truth.

2. True marriage is humane. The marriage between a man and a woman has been uniquely involving the procreation and rearing of children within a family. It provides a balanced environment for children to grow. Both father and mother play a significant role in the way a child is raised.

Our government and lawmakers should not be in a rush to decide their final verdict concerning the marriage equality bill without knowing the real meaning of equality and thinking of the consequences of same sex marriage that other states have experienced.

I ask you to, please, vote “No” on any piece of legislation that would redefine marriage.

Thank you for hearing my voice!

From:	Les Yanagi
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Testimony for SB 1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:00:30 AM

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

SB 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony

Hearing Location: Hawaii State Capitol; 415 South Beretania Street; Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: In **Opposition** to SB 1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality act of 2013

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to SB 1, The Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because the bill does not adequately protect religious liberty.

The Senate Bill does not fully protect religious institutions and clergy

1) Many churches have nonprofit institutions such as schools and colleges that help them carry out their religious missions. The Senate bill covers only "religious organizations" and not organizations such as these. Unlike protections that are found in other states that have legalized same-sex marriage, this bill does not protect these institutions that play such a vital educational role for churches.

2) The Senate bill protects churches from having to hold same-sex marriage celebrations on its properties and places of worship provided that it doesn't offer marriage celebrations to the general public for a profit. This does not go far enough. Unlike protections found in other states, the Senate bill does not protect churches from having to also hold same-sex wedding receptions and other related gatherings or from having to provide services in connection with same-sex marriages such as marriage preparation and counseling.

3) Many churches fund important programs such as youth ministries and feeding the hungry by charging fees for the use of their facilities for weddings. This Senate bill does protect churches that provide these vital and worthwhile programs.

4) Clergy and churches will not be protected under this Senate bill to be able to speak freely about same-sex marriage without the threat of lawsuits for such speech being labeled as hate speech.

The Senate Bill does not protect individuals and small business owners from being forced to support and participate in same-sex wedding ceremonies

1) The Senate bill does not protect people who are in professions that provide services for weddings such as photographers, wedding planners, florists, food caterers, and bakers from being forced to attend and participate in same-sex marriage celebrations against their religious beliefs.

2) The Senate bill does not protect bed and breakfast owners who are asked to host same-sex wedding ceremonies and refuse to do so because of their religious beliefs.

3) The Senate bill does not protect judges who are asked to officiate at same-sex marriage ceremonies against their religious beliefs.

The Senate Bill does not protect school teachers

The Senate Bill does not protect school teachers from being forced to teach courses that support and promote same-sex marriage against their religious beliefs.

The Senate Bill does not protect parents and their children

The Senate bill does not protect parents who want to be notified and remove their children from school classrooms when courses that support and promote same-sex marriage are being taught against their religious beliefs. In the same manner, their children, who also have religious beliefs, will also not be protected under this bill for refusing to attend classroom lessons and read from textbooks and other instructional material that support and promote same-sex marriage and minimize the importance of marriage between a man and a woman.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote NO on SB 1. Thank you for your time and for your attention on this bill.

Sincerely,

Les Yanagi
Hawaii Voter

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: strider4jesus@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:19:14 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Strider Didymus	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: THE SENATE THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE INTERIM OF 2013 COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR Senator Clayton Hee, Chair Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair AGENDA SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS Recognizes marriage between individuals of the same sex. Extends to same-sex couples (homosexuals) the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive. I am in STRONG OPPOSITION to this abominable homosexual bill from hell and my written testimony shall be given at the time of the hearing. “Strider Didymus” 10/27/13 – 9:30 AM

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Alex Erbe
To: All Reps; All Senators; JDLTestimony-InPerson; Alex Erbe
Subject: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:21:31 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Executive Summary:

I am totally and utterly opposed to the Same Sex Marriage on religious grounds.
I am opposed to leaving legacy decisions such as redefining marriage in the hands of law makers. It belongs to the people. Put it to a vote "by the people, for the people."
This law is poorly written and exposes many good people to deal with onerous consequences of the law.

My testimony:
Like many other citizens of Hawaii, I have been following the debate about same gender marriage from a relatively safe and comfortable distance - usually by internet and by newspaper. Although I have been very active in church, as a scout leader, and a youth leader, my involvement in politics has been, at best, minimal. It's not that I don't have opinions - it is just that, for the most part, the laws that have been passed heretofore have not had much of an impact on me as a law abiding citizen. When I got a speeding ticket ten years ago I paid it because I knew I had violated the law of the land. The law was clear and my violation was clear, unlike the current Same Gender Marriage bill that is being presented in the special session next week.

I have been alarmed by some of the things that I am reading about concerning the ramifications of the Same Gender Marriage bill. Let me say from the outset, I don't believe that "Gay" marriages are in Hawaii's best interest. I have been married to the same woman for 33 years and I have three successful children and eight grandchildren. I have come to appreciate the blessings and benefits of marriage so a part of me can see appreciate the frustration of those who want to marry the mate of their choosing. Having said that, however, as far as I am concerned, same gender marriage is simply wrong and I would really like to see the SGM bill killed. Period. I recognize that is is my opinion, however, and we can argue until the cows come home and not resolve anything. However, it is some of the other provisions of the bill have me incensed. I am particularly disturbed by the lack of protections offered to religious freedoms that leave the Same Gender Marriage bill open to exploitation by devious lawyers and organizations with counterproductive agendas.

My ancestors came to America on the Mayflower seeking religious freedom and opportunity. I also have ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War to help secure freedom of religion and persecution for themselves and their posterity. My father was drafted and went to Europe during World War II to help preserve freedoms for us. I served in the US Navy and went to the Persian Gulf to help preserve freedoms for the US. It is from that perspective that I grow

increasingly incensed by laws that seek to take away religious freedoms. It boggles my mind after all that has been accomplished to establish and protect religious freedoms in the past 237 years, we find ourselves being saddled with such nefarious laws that strip these rights and freedoms away. For example:

Boy Scout troops and packs are a big part of many organization's youth programs - they provide important value-based teachings and experiences that help youth to develop ethical values that serve them in their youth and to make a healthy transition into adulthood. Boy Scout units, as I have come to understand, are not unlike locally owned and operated McDonald's franchises. There is a symbiotic benefit when both parties conform to the bylaws and precepts.

Compliance to bylaws and precepts usually guarantees predictable results: when you walk into a locally owned and operated McDonalds store and order a Big Mac, no matter where in the world you are, you have a certain amount of confidence that a Big Mac is what you are going to get. For the Boy Scouts, the end results are often enthusiastically sought after by organizations, parents and the young men who will participate. Local organizations often charter Boy Scout units (and others) with a specific end in mind - to provide certain experiences that will instill values, moral ethics and character traits that they consider valuable to their youth membership. They also incur considerable expense, both monetarily and in terms of human resources, to guarantee that their members (and potential members) have these experiences.

Organizations open their doors (literally) to all sorts of people who are looking for something better (or, in the case of Boy Scouts, it is often their parents are looking for something better for their children.) As part of the ongoing sustainability efforts and community outreach, organizations seek "fresh blood" by reaching out to the community in hopes of revitalizing their ranks by recruiting (A.K.A. missionary) work in their communities.

For a Boy Scout unit to survive, it must continually seek new blood to replace the natural attrition effects that limiting membership to specific age groups creates. In short, they most recruit to remain a viable long-term entity. Chartering units (churches, educational, and civic organizations) hope, of course, to grow their membership but their overtures are sometimes not accepted for any of a number of reasons.

Growth of churches, like Boy Scout units, is dependent on opening their doors to people outside the organization in hopes that attendees will find something they like and will want to bring their conduct in compliance with those bylaws and precepts. There is a usually grace period in which new comers can come, explore and experience, and hopefully embrace. Sometimes they do, some times they decline such membership opportunities.

It is on this point that I have a deep concern with the law as it is currently written: to my layman's understanding of the bill, in its current form, it sounds as though as long as we keep scouting (and other faith-based initiatives) "in the family" and maintain a "closed-door" policy, we can expect no legal ramifications from the law. Lawmakers (and our governor) keep reassuring us that "all is well" as long as we forgo any recruiting (A.K.A. missionary work) in the community. It seems as though the very act of opening our doors to the public takes us beyond the boundaries of safety and we expose ourselves to lawsuits and a great deal on angst from local and national agenda-driven groups. Many of these groups have decidedly unreligious, if not anti-religious purposes. The current law then can be used as a crowbar to

force organizations to open their facilities and conduct marriages and other activities that are clearly in violation of the beliefs and practices of that organization.

As written, the law puts a chilling effect on any type of community outreach: scouting, membership, blood drives, etc., etc., etc. I have a hard time accepting ANY reassurances by lawmakers that are not sufficiently spelled out IN LAW. While I sometimes think that many laws are not enforceable, I am deeply distressed about this one, again, because there are a host of entities that seem to exist for the sole purpose of destroying, by actively and creatively using the legal system, any organization or body who are tying to make a positive moral difference in the world. IN SHORT, THERE ARE FEW, IF ANY, PROTECTIONS IN THE LAW AS IT IS CURRENTLY WRITTEN!!!

I am urging you to be forward thinking and take a stand on this issue: PUT REASONABLE PROTECTIONS IN WRITING! I have seen emails from politicians, including our governor, who seem to put their faith in the goodness of the people not to exploit the law even though past experience with marriage laws in other states have proven that this is wishful thinking. I urge you, please do not put your faith in IMPLIED protections: PUT PROTECTIONS IN WRITING! As written, there is a very rocky and expensive future for the law as currently written. To my mind, the law, unless changed, will result in a very expensive and vitriolic battle that will conclude in the US Supreme Court and a lot of senseless time, money, and human energy will be wasted that could be avoided by PUTTING ADEQUATE PROTECTIONS IN WRITING FROM THE BEGINNING!

Please do the right thing for the people of Hawaii and avoid embarrassing the state of Hawaii by writing the necessary protections into the bill NOW. Fix the bill now while it is still at a point where it can easily be fixed: BEFORE IT BECOMES A LAW! If the SGM bill is passed, there are organizations aplenty to accommodate gay marriages without requiring privately-funded faith-based organizations and churches to open their doors to gay marriages and other activities simply because they invited a couple of boys to a scout meeting or performed a public service such as a blood drive or sponsored a bone marrow registry!

It would be totally understandable if the managers of a city or state owned building or edifice that was built with public funds with the express purpose of serving the general public suddenly began to balk at the idea of opening their doors to gay marriages. Let's make a reasonable distinction between PUBLIC and PRIVATE facilities and PUT THOSE DISTINCTIONS INTO THE LAW!

In conclusion, I appreciate your time and effort in reading this lengthy tome. As you have probably surmised, I am both an active scouter and an active church member. I have never, in my 57 years, written a letter to a politician before. I also stood on the side of Kanoelehua Highway in Hilo and held a sign for the first time in my life! I like to think of myself as a "live and let live" kind of a guy. Until now. I am pleading one last time: PLEASE, PUT THE PROTECTIONS IN WRITING! And put the marriage bill on a ballot.

Sincerely,
Alex Erbe

From: Steve Barca
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Opposed to this Bill SB-1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:24:52 AM

Vote Opposed to Bill SB-1

Steve Barca
5185 Kupele pl.
Lahaina, Hi 96761

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: matsumotohiromi@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:29:44 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Surlester McBride	PS150	Oppose	Yes

Comments: As a family we have been active in Chinatown for many years. My son is a product of a broken home and I have watched him struggle with many family issues over the last seventeen years. I feel that as our kids naturally struggle to find themselves they are going to look outside of the home for help from there peers. This bill comes with a lot of unknown variables. One is how it will affect the curriculum now taught in our schools.Can we amend the bill saying that there will be no same sex agenda of any kind brought into schools (public or privet).

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: yamadawes@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:32:12 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Wesley Yamada	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Gov. Abercrombie does not have to call a special session for "tax purposes" because HB 444 already covers those benefits. Another "lie" is that the majority of Hawaii's people are in favor of SSM...if that is true, than put it up for Vote in a Constitutional Amendment and let the People decide once and for all. Abercrombie says this is about Equality, but yet did not consult with the opposition to this SSM bill, nor does he allow for Amendments to this flawed bill for protection of religious freedoms. What about the rights of Children who have no say in being adopted into SSM homes, or who will be forced to be indoctrinated into SSM because it is the LAW? This is SO WRONG at how Abercrombie is Forcing this upon all the people without giving us proper time to fully discuss this important matter fully. Let the People Decide.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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BettyJeanAnderson
91-1006 Waiko'ihi Street • KaMakana at Hoakalei • Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706 •
Telephone/Fax (808) 681-3232 • E-mail: ladyvalledor@hawaii.rr.com

Monday, October 28, 2013 REVISED

To: The Hawaii State Senate, 27th Legislature of 2013
Chairman Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro, and
All Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor

Re: OPPOSE Senate Bill S.B. 1 – "RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS" and all related bills legitimizing homosexuality or same sex marriage.
Hearing, Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM. in the Auditorium
State Capitol, 415 So. Beretania St., Honolulu, HI 96813

Chairman Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and all the Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor:

My name is BettyJean Anderson. I'm a married, registered voter from Ewa Beach, and a resident of Hawaii 33 years. I plead with you to oppose S.B. 1 endorsing same sex marriage under the guise of equal rights. Please do not foist this hurried and poorly-written bill upon our State which has no amendments and "does not protect people of faith to practice their religion nor protects their right to free speech guaranteed under the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

This bill is not truly about equal rights for homosexuals to marry since their rights and benefits are already protected under our domestic partnership and civil unions laws--after all, what's a piece of paper? S.B.1 primarily discriminates against people of faith requiring them to obey a law to accept homosexuality which goes against our deeply held convictions and consciences and renders any non-acceptance of homosexuality as homophobia or a hate crime. This bill is discrimination against religion. Forcing the Church to accept homosexuality is government setting up the rights of humanistic homosexuals *above* the rights of religious citizens.

Please protect people of faith who must have equal rights and be free to express this faith as delineated in ancient scripture:

"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God." - I Corinthians 6:9-11, The Holy Bible

Representative McDermott asked Governor Abercrombie, "Based on your reasoning that Same-Sex Marriage is a civil right, then how can you disenfranchise a bi-sexual from marrying the people he/she loves?" The Governor's response, "I fully expect a lawsuit to be filed in about a year." Is this where we are headed--first endorsing homosexuality, then polygamy? Is this what we want for Hawaii?

Yes, many states and countries are passing same-sex marriage laws; but they have since been regretting it, too, with buyer's remorse as told by the Massachusetts Resistance and educator Phil Lees of Ontario, Canada here in the islands to warn Hawaii. And, as my mother once said, "Just because everyone wants to jump off a cliff, should you?"

S.B. 1 coerces the Church to uphold this law and violates their consciences if they disagree with the wants of these adults. Please do not pass this deeply flawed discriminatory law against Christians, where non-compliance--like Massachusetts and Canada--would result in arrests and lawsuits. Instead, please support and pass HB 5 "Proposing An Amendment To The Hawaii Constitution To Reserve Marriage to Opposite Sex Couples."

Finally hear the wisdom of this ancient scripture in Proverbs 14:34, "Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a disgrace to any people."

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. BettyJean Anderson
Ewa Beach, Hawaii

October 27, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because:

1. It re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage. I support the definition that marriage is between a man and a woman, which was voted on by the people in 1998.

2. It is in opposition to the will of the Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and woman in the Hawaii constitution. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively. Such consideration should be voted upon by the people and not by a select few (i.e. the legislation).

3. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion. Religious organizations will not be required to host same sex marriage celebrations if they meet the requirements of the state but not according and in respect to personal religious beliefs. Further this bill would prevent churches from holding events of community outreach with the fear that their facility would then be compelled to host events not keeping with their religious/moral beliefs.

4. It will introduce a new educational curriculum for K-12 grades that will present same-sex marriages and relationships to school children and youth. Separation of church and state bar teachers from referencing God in public schools. If religious references are excluded from being taught in public schools, then same-sex marriages and relationships should likewise be taught in the home and current legislation should respect all parties concerned.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Nevertheless, I understand that there are many in the legislature who have already made their decision. I urge you to express my voice on the above noted matters. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Nathan Lee

Registered Hawaii Voter – District #10

From: Alex Panida
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to Special Session and SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:40:39 AM

To: Chair Clayton Hee, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Aloha Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on this Judiciary and Labor,

As a concerned citizen, and registered voter, I am submitting this testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage in Hawaii.

The tactics by this government to keep the bill out of regular citizen, restrict amendments, and limit public testimony is evidence that the government is not interested in the will of the people. This Special Session amounts to a state imposed redefinition of marriage that lacks a clear substantive state interest. It amounts to an imposed a "new morality" on the people of Hawaii while threatening the first amendment rights of tens of thousands.

Whatever your personal beliefs, I urge you to allow the people to decide on this issue.

Mahalo,

Alex Panida
94-514 Apii Street
Waipahu, HI 96797
(808) 677-2439

From: Ana Barrientos-Perez
858 6th ave
Honolulu hi, 96816
(808) 206-5061 heartbeat.2008@live.com

Senator	S district 23
Clayton Hee	kane'ohe, Ka'a'awa,
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407	Kahuku, Wailua,
Phone 808-586-7330	Haleiwa, Wahiawa,
Fax 808-586-7334	Schofield Barracks,
E-Mail: senhee@capitol.hawaii.gov	Kunia

Subject: Opposition SB1, JDL Testimony at The Capitol

Dear Honorable Les Ihara and Members of the committee Maile Shimabukuro,
Mike Grabbard, Brickwood Galuteria, MalamaSolomon, Sam Slom

As a constituent of District **10**, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to SB1 The Marriage equality Act. As a voter in the district you represent in this issue, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process.

I believe that the public should vote on the issue of Same Sex Marriage on just as we did back in 1998, when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve marriage between a man and a woman. The needs to be informed of any legal issues that will affect our lives and we need to be given time to discuss these issues, not the way Governor Abercrombie is acting now.

The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent. This Special Session does not warrant enough time to address detrimental consequences to family unity, confusion to promiscuity to young adolescents, a born nature, which in the 21 century there is no DNA, blood test this is an inherited or biological born behavior not proven ever. This SB1 must put in the ballot for citizens to make a decision.

In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the constituents of District # **10**. Again, I am asserting my opposition to same sex marriage, request be given enough time to be to discuss issues so it could be given on the ballot for the people to vote. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that HE will continue to encourage you in all that you do.

God Bless,

Ana Barrientos-Perez.

Dear Representative:

The “same sex marriage” issue is truly causing quite an issue for me. I am **against** the “same sex marriage proposed law” in all of its current forms. I have become quite concerned about my rights as a U.S. citizen and as a “Kamaaina” of this beautiful and great state of Hawai‘i. There are so many laws being changed by those who move here to Hawai’i from abroad, wanting us to conform to their way of life. Obviously, something did not appeal to them where they came from so they moved here, but now they are expecting us to conform to their desires.

Our first Amendment rights are being threatened by the “same sex marriage” law that is currently being entertained by you and your colleagues along with the governor. If this law is pushed through, as the governor and those on the panel who has political interests with this “Same Sex Marriage Coalition”, the rights of others will be removed. I have done a lot of research on this issue because I know many people who are for or against this law change. I have found in my research, that the rights to the “freedom of speech” and “freedom of religion” will be removed. I know that you are thinking that there is nowhere in this law that the language exist but let me enlighten you on what has come about in Massachusetts, Canada and other states that have adopted this law. For parents who do not agree with “same sex marriage law already passed”, that have chosen to opt their children out of the sex education teaching that includes this material, they have been arrested and charged with a “hate crime”. These are law abiding citizens who pay taxes, who have no criminal intent to break any laws, who are entitled to their rights as US citizens. They are parents trying to protect their children from immoral teachings, just like when the TV shows programs with same sex couples material, or sexual content that we don’t want our children to watch, we put on the parental controls. Parents are not be able to exercise their rights to use their parental control to remove their children from this teaching material, because it is a law. Parents who expressed their religious beliefs are charged with “hate crimes”, because it is a law. Yet this coalition has been allowed, without criminal charges, to intimidate those who have the voting powers to stop this nonsense. They have petitioned peoples businesses to the point of the business establishments closing. They have trashed opponents homes who were in the voting capacity. Where are their arrests for these hate crime violations? Nothing is being done about them. I’m just saying that there seems to be a movement in the political realm that is causing many representatives, of the people who placed them in office to represent their beliefs, to cower to this coalition in the fear of the retaliation or because they are being pressured by those who have interests in moving this groups agenda forward. We, the people, all have rights. If you chose to vote for same sex marriages, I ask you to make sure that the law will be written in a way that others rights will not be removed. That the law you chose, will not allow those who disagree with this immoral sexual behavior, to be persecuted for their beliefs. That the law that you chose, will not hinder the freedom of speech for those who disagree. That the law that you chose, does not hinder the freedom of religion for those who do not believe in “same sex marriages”. Those who oppose this proposal of this law deserve their rights as well. They are law abiding, tax paying citizens whose rights should not be removed for another group who wants their rights to be imposed.

I would prefer that all of those who are in power with this bill, reserve this bill for the people, of the state of Hawaiʻi, to vote on. If at that time, the people vote for this bill, then a democracy has done their job as to give the people their voice. If the government choses to bully their constituents by forcing this bill upon everyone, then all of the representatives will be guilty of bullying. They will be setting the wrong example to all people who have been campaigning against bullying in the school court yards, in the homes, and on the internet. Please set the right example to our generations that exist and the ones to come. Set the example that Hawaiʻi will not rush laws into existence that are unfair and not for all.

Approximately 5 years ago, a sex offender law was passed in the state of Hawaiʻi as well. This law placed those who committed a crime within a certain law to be on a nationwide sex offender list for life. This law included those who were convicted as far back as 25 years ago which in my opinion, this violates a "double jeopardy law". This law has placed reformed criminals in a bad place, causing them to lose employment, placing them at risk for homelessness, putting them in a desperate situations, punishing them a second time for a crime that they have already paid for. Some of these people have converted their lives and have become law abiding citizens, tax paying citizens, and are not a threat to the public. But because this law was passed, and the verbiage in the law did not protect those who transformed their lives, or because they did not start the law with current offenders and not those who have complied with the current laws, many people have suffered needlessly.

I ask you, as humbly as I know how, to please do not allow this bill to be rushed through. Please use your platform as your constituents have asked you to because they trusted you to have their best interest at hand when they voted you into that position. Look at the outcomes of those who have had this law for over 5 years, look at the repercussions that have come from a law that gives a carte blanche for this coalition. Please do not exchange one right for another. Please take all involved into consideration when accepting the wording on the bill. Please ask your partner representatives to think long and hard about what they are doing. Our country's fabric was built upon families becoming independent of government to stand on their own two feet, to be able to support their own households, to educate themselves so that we could all live in an operational world. That is why marriage came about, so that man and woman could procreate and teach their children what good law abiding citizens should be like. To work hard, to have great integrity, to have honor and respect. Our family unit has broken down so much that America is losing its value. There is no more respect, every man for themselves, no one cares for their own elderly. People wiping out people, and those are in the US not in foreign countries. There are so many single family homes whether father or mother and children. Children raising children, children being bullied because there is no one at home to protect them or teach them because their parent is too busy trying to uphold the household. The bullying is causing children to gun down other children and those teaching them to have better manners because they oppose the teaching. Please do not tear our fabric any further. I am not sure if we would be able to survive this last one.

Thank you for serving in such peril less times. We need great men and women who are willing to stand for what is moral and right in order to make our country great again.

Please do not rush this bill through and when you do entertain a bill, think about the repercussion great and small and what it will do to the rest of the fabric of our great state and the rest of the country. For all eyes are upon us!

God bless you.

Doreen Braz

From: Ralph & Shirley
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: In Person Testimony for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:44:18 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I would like to voice my strong opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people on this issue. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience, religious freedom, and freedom of speech, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I believe that the voters have already addressed this issue with the 1998 constitutional amendment. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. There needs to be more discussion.

SB1 should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly considered, examined, and discussed as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will markedly change our culture, customs, and traditions. Your "yes" vote in this special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ralph Yasuhara
95-754 Maiaku Street
Mililani, HI 96789

From:	Hoku Lwin
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Testimony in Opposition to Special Session and SB 1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:45:12 AM

To: Chair Clayton Hee, Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Hokuala M.K. Lwin-Maluo
87-2049 Pakeke Street
Waianae, HI 96792
(808) 983-9827

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to Special Session and B 1

Aloha Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting this testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage in Hawaii.

In 1998 I voted for what I understood was defining marriage to be between one man and one woman. In fact, 70% of Hawaii's voters agreed with me. Now here it is almost 15 years later and this is still an issue. If you want to redefine marriage, please let the people you represent decide by a constitutional amendment. One that means what it says, not a legal loophole. It seems that our elected officials are taking upon themselves to undo what the voters in Hawaii have already decided.

Additionally, I oppose this bill because the religious protection clauses are inadequate for people of faith to exercise their First Amendment right of speech and religion.

I ask you to please do one of two things:

A. Leave the institution of marriage the way it has been for thousands of years. And the way we thought we defined it in 1998

B. Take the issue back to the citizens of the State and allow us to vote for a clearly worded constitutional amendment

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Mahalo!
Hokuala M.K. Lwin-Maluo

--
Hoku Lwin
Global Executive Assistant
New Hope Leeward | 94-050 Farrington Highway #A-1 | Waipahu, HI 96797
Office: 808.678.3778 | www.newhopeleeward.org

From: Nancy Holbrook
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Re: In Opposition to S.B, 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:46:17 AM

Nancy Holbrook
2310 Oahu Ave
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it does not protect our 1st Amendment Right of Freedom of Religion. It fails to protect churches, clergy, religious group and temples from lawsuits. It denies business owners protection of their 1st Amendment Right of Freedom of Religion. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits.

It presumptively re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage with little thought or regard to how that will affect society as a whole and in particular the most innocent and vulnerable citizens, children. It is being fast tracked through a special session that circumvents discussion, particularly input from neighboring islands and examining in detail the impact on **ALL** the people of Hawaii.

It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language “reserve marriage” indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively. If there is a question on what the people of

Hawaii want, put the vote to the people of Hawaii and don't let a small group of people make such a far reaching and momentous decision with unknown and far reaching results. Gay marriage in truth is a social experiment. When society disregards and undermines the traditional family structure, the consequences are negative for families, society, and our country.

Thanks you for your consideration,
Nancy Holbrook

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

For the Senate hearing: hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Oct. 27, 2013

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

Aloha,

My name is Bryn Villers. I am a registered voter in Senate district 10, I have a B.S. in Zoology, and I am opposed to SB 1 and the legalization of same-sex "marriage" in the State of Hawai'i.

> "When talking about same-sex marriage we must also be careful to distinguish between equality of persons and equality of institutions. No matter what our sexual attraction may be, we are all equal as persons. But the institution of marriage between a man and a woman cannot be equal to the union between persons of the same gender." -Lively

Main Oppositions:

- Homosexuality has never been conclusively shown to be an *immutable characteristic* and therefore has no standing as a civil right
- There are no protections in this bill for non-clergy individuals whose religious beliefs and practices are protected under both state and federal constitutions when they refuse to provide goods or services (public or

private) which would promote that which they consider immoral; namely same-sex "marriage"

- The people of Hawai'i voted in 1998 to, it was thought, constitutionally limit marriage to one man and one woman. Why else would the Supreme Court of Hawai'i in 1999 have dismissed *Baehr v. Lewin* immediately following the Constitutional Amendment? (Coolidge, 2000) It is not only injudicious, but iniquitous to legalize same-sex "marriage" without the vote of the people
- There are no regulations woven into this bill dealing with the outfall in the public education arena, and no studies have been presented to the public in relation to the issue. Yet, looking to those states, and even countries, wherein this has been legalized already, there are clearly alterations in the learning curriculum and environment.
- If the measure were about benefits, this legislature could simply write into law a statute granting civil-union couples federal benefits rather than redefining the underlying structure of marriage as it has been throughout the ages and Hawaiian history—man and woman.
- "Love" is an ambiguous term (one could be talking about a hot fudge sundae or a spouse). It is too small of a word to incorporate all the massive shades of meaning. And love, within the context of marriage, is a choice
- The reality of the situation is that it is (overarchingly) about "normalizing" homosexual activity and opening the litigious doors

Homosexuality

What is homosexuality? A seemingly obvious question, and yet absolutely fundamental to the purpose set before this body. The current trend of popular thought says homosexuality is an innate characteristic of an individual undetermined by personal choice (born-that-way) and resulting in same-sex attraction. For the State's purposes however, homosexuality is the commission of homosexual acts—sourced in thought, but committed by choice.

The State has no capacity to regulate thought life. Anyone can have any thoughts about anyone else without fear of reprisal. The law only regulates actions. An individual may imagine murdering a person but only if they take steps to put that thought into action can the State act against them to protect the public good. Likewise, the State regulates certain behaviors by law and refuses to promote others if the result of the behavior is found to be sufficiently detrimental to the State and/or the public, or if the benefits of the actions do not outweigh the cost, or if the action falls under the umbrella of protected civil rights. Because the acts of homosexuality, in the aggregate sense, are detrimental (most notably in the arenas of health and therefore economics) and because homosexual acts cannot result in the production of new citizens (a benefit to the State when reared to be both civilized and economically productive and the real purpose of marriage http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/im-gay-and-i-oppose-gay-marriage/), the category of civil rights is the only remaining, I will discuss this.

Homosexuality as an act is already allowed under the law—the right to privacy (for one) even protects it. For homosexual marriage to take on protections

as a civil right homosexuality as a state of being predetermined from birth and without determination by choice must, as *one* of the most basic of *several* components, be an immutable characteristic of the individual intending to get married—that is, they must be predetermined to take the action without any regard for choice or it must be necessary for life (like breathing or eating). Categories included in civil rights would be things such as "race", ethnicity/ancestry, and gender. Religion also falls under this category of civil rights because of its specially and specifically protected status under the Constitution of the United States (Bill of Rights 1st Amendment) and the Hawai'i State Constitution (Bill of Rights Section 5). Already, the State has an interest in not encouraging homosexuality, and no obligation to promote it through the legalization of same-sex "marriage" because the thoughts of individuals are not the purview of the State, but only the action; and the action by virtue of being an action is a choice and one which can be taken without "marriage". Some might argue that heterosexuality is also a choice and that is true, however it provides a necessary benefit to the State in the production of new citizens. Incest, pedophilia, and bestiality are also choices sourced in thought, yet the State regulates the *actions*, and does not promote the activity by legalizing them in "marriage". And yet already, pedophiles are claiming the same arguments as same-sex "marriage" advocates for their "sexual orientation" to be recognized. (Minor, 2011)

Science

So, what about the science? One of the most recent papers of large scale (Santilla, 2008) claims to, "show, for the first time ever prevalent potential for homosexual response in both men and women". The problems with this study are two-fold. The authors base their entire data set on two questions: During the past year, on average, how often did you have sexual contact with [the same gender]? ("overt homosexual behavior") and "If a, in your opinion, handsome man…[for women, woman] whom you like, suggested sexual interaction with you, how likely would you be able [sic] to do it (if you could define the nature of the interaction and nobody else would know about it)?" (marked on a scale from most to least likely). Essentially, the study asks a person to fantasize about whether or not they would be willing to engage in homosexual behavior (calling it "potential for homosexual response") if propositioned. The second issue is that rather than revealing the genetic case for homosexuality, the paper shows an influence of only 27% (with an error range of 2.7-38 which is very large) for genetics within twins, and moreover "nonshared environmental influences" or influences specific to the individual accounted for 73% with an error range of (62-85). The paper could be dissected further on other levels, but in an overarching sense it shows the same thing that all large twin studies have been showing. If homosexuality was genetic it ought to be at or near 100% for all monozygous (same DNA) twins—it has never, in any study of random, large sampling been shown to even approach that number. And if it were accounted for as epi-genetic as in the Rice et al 2012 paper then dizygotic twins (different DNA, same womb conditions) would be expected to have an exact

correlation with monozygous twins, which is not the case. The Rice study assumes homosexuality is not acquired. And what is more it is not based on any actual study, but is rather a mathematical model. The claims of DNA markers on the X chromosome for male homosexuality (Hamer, 1993) have not been repeatable or verified.

Savic's study (2006) on pheromone response does not reveal biological innateness of homosexuality, as Dr. Savic stated

> "[We] did not want to create the impression that the study proves sexual response is not learned. In fact, [the Swedish research team] seems pretty open to plausible interpretations. However, at present, from this study, nothing definitive can be concluded."

LeVay (1991) says about his study on brain structure,

> "It's important to stress what I didn't find. I did not prove that homosexuality is genetic, or find a genetic cause for being gay. I didn't show that gay men are born that way, the most common mistake people make in interpreting my work. Nor did I locate a gay center in the brain … Since I looked at adult brains, we don't know if the differences I found were there at birth, or if they appeared later."

One of the main criticisms on the LeVay study is that HIV affects testosterone levels. Diamond's study in 2008 showed that over 10 years 2/3 of women changed sexual identity labels and 1/3 changed labels 2 or more times. And there are studies citing finger length, eye blinking in response to loud noises, and how many brothers you have. (Swaab and Hofman, 1990; Rahman, 2003; Pathela, 2006) Despite mountains of studies, the results are that there is no conclusive proof that homosexual attraction in genetically pre-determined. But there is every evidence that heterosexual activity between men and women is both natural (i.e. the constituent parts fit together in a biological sense) and necessary for the survival of humanity.

Conclusion

Homosexuality has not been shown to be an immutable characteristic by science, even GLSEN agrees,

> "Sexual orientation has not been conclusively found to be determined by any particular factor or factors.." pg5 GLSEN "Just the Facts" 2008

In fact, studies show results contrary to this assertion. Homosexual acts *have been* shown conclusively to coincide with greater than average HIV (and other STI) rates (roughly 2% of U.S. population is gay yet it accounts for 61% of HIV infection) (CDC, 2009) and greater than average promiscuity rates (at least among youth, could not find recent stats for adults) (CDC, 2011).

There is nothing prohibiting any individual from engaging in homosexual acts under law. But the purpose of marriage is now, and has always been, the production of children and their rearing in a stable environment.

The families of America are already struggling to raise their children right (fighting against drugs, promiscuity, disconnection, gangs, violence, etc.). Legalizing same-sex marriage, and therefore legitimizing homosexual activity, will only serve to complicate and further confuse our children.

Please vote NO on the legalization of same-sex marriage.

Allow the people to vote and bear the responsibility for their choice.

Resources

Cameron, P. and Cameron, K. Eastern Psychological Association http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2007_docs/CameronHomosexualFootprint.pdf

CDC, 2009 cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/HIVIncidencePressRelease.html

CDC, 2011 http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss60e0606.pdf

Coolidge, D. O., Symposium Article and Comment: The Hawai'i Marriage Amendment: Its Origins, Meaning and Fate, 22 *Hawaii L. Rev.* 19 Spring 2000

Hamer, D. H., A Linkage Between Markers on the X Chromosome and Male Sexual Orientation, *Science* 261 (5119), 1993

Minor, J. 2011 "Pedophiles want same rights as homosexuals" http://www.greeleygazette.com/press/?p=11517

Rice, W.R. et al, Homosexuality as a consequence of epigenetically canalized sexual development, *The Quarterly Review of Biology*, 87 (4) Dec. 2012

Santilla, P. et al, Potential for homosexual response is prevalent and genetic, *Biol. Psychol.* 77 (2008) 102-105

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

To give the people an opportunity to vote on Same Sex Marriage, please vote NO on this particular bill, and then encourage an election for the all voters of Hawaii to cast their own votes.

Your assumed commitment to your public office is to represent the people of Hawaii well.

You were not elected to be judges of the people; you were elected to speak on behalf of all people in Hawaii. This issue of SSM is clearly divided among the people. PLEASE let the people vote on this issue.

If you do not stop the current election of this bill, then please vote NO to keep our current marriage laws in effect. At the next election, or in a special election, give the people of Hawaii the opportunity to vote on SSM. It is the only real way to hear what the people want. Please do not take away our freedom and right to speak our hearts through a people's vote.

Please do not change our marriage laws until the people can cast their own votes.

If you feel you must vote on this bill, then please honor and respect my vote against SSM. I do not support SSM, and I ask that you please represent my vote.

Please remember and consider your call to represent the people, and to be partial to no one.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paula Tanaka
Mililani, HI 96789

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: mr.smith@smithfam.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:51:17 AM
Attachments: Why I Oppose SB1-The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act.pdf

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SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Joshua Nathan Smith	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I oppose SB1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. I've attached a PDF document that outlines some of the reasons I oppose the measure. Protect children, preserve religious freedom, and avoid negative social costs incurred by abandonment of traditional marriage -- sustain marriage as a unique relationship between a man and a woman.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
For the Senate hearing: hearing on 10/28/2013 at 10:30 AM

Kerrie Villers
3114 Paliuli St., Apt. 6
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816

October 27, 2013

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Kerrie Villers. I am a registered, voting citizen of Senate District 10, and I oppose same-sex marriage in general and specifically S.B. 1. If marriage is going to be redefined to include same-sex couples, this should be put to a vote of the people since it has such extensive societal consequences.

Major Points:

1. There has not been enough discussion about the effects of legalizing same-sex marriage upon society for the people of this state to make an informed decision about how this will affect them.

2. Homosexual activity has not been demonstrated to be a genetic or prenatal predisposition, thus has no legal grounds for qualifying for civil rights.

3. Male homosexual and bisexual activity has been decisively linked with high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, thus posing a health and economic concern.

4. The state has a duty to protect its citizens and not promote high risk behavior, which it will inevitably do should the state sanction homosexual activity by legalizing same-sex marriage making it indistinct from heterosexual marriage.

5. Major societal decisions that will forever destroy native and non-native culture, customs, and tradition should be made by the people who constitute those groups, not a small governing body.

Discussion:

After many discussions with legislators, coworkers, neighbors, friends, and family, I realized that many could see the immediate ramifications of passing same-sex marriage, such as civil suits against religious institutions, affiliated educational and outreach related institutions, and individuals whose consciences would not allow them to use their artistic expression to support homosexual marriages. However, I have not heard much discussion on other effects that passing such legislation will have on Hawai'i. In fact, apart from the religious organizations, it appears that most people are simply failing to either consider or address the issues our society will inevitably encounter and should anticipate and discuss if this state is to make an intelligent and wise decision for the good of all its people concerning marriage.

As a former educator, an Auntie, and hopefully a future mother, the effects on our public education system is of great concern to me. We cannot help but logically conclude that if the state sanctions homosexual relations as equal to and indistinct from heterosexual relations, our public school system will soon after begin to include homosexuality in the curriculum as normative rather than an aberration/ deviation from the norm. Those who would argue otherwise need look no farther than the public school curriculum and policies of other states and countries where same-sex marriage has been legalized (namely Massachusetts, California, Maryland, United Kingdom, Canada, etc.). From the earliest grades in elementary school all the way through high school, homosexuality is, or is planned to be, taught to students as a societal norm.

When homosexuality is taught in public schools after legalizing same sex marriage, it is treated as something that ought to be embraced, regardless of the students' beliefs, objections of

their parents, and scientific data that proves the lifestyle to be quite hazardous to physical health. There is evidence of students being taught to cross-dress and use bathrooms designated for the opposite sex, which only serves to confuse children on appropriate behavior. This also presents a safety concern where boys may go unquestioned into the girls' restroom. In some schools students have been forced into "counseling" for speaking out peacefully about the unnatural nature of and scientific facts relating to homosexuality. Students are also being taught graphic material relating to homosexuality and how to engage in this behavior. None of this promotes the safety and mental or physical well-being of our children.

Research and statistics reveal that homosexuality is not normative. It remains rare in our society, with roughly only 2-4% of the population identifying as homosexual. In spite of activists claims that the behavior is genetic, geneticists have concluded that this is false; it is neither genetic nor a prenatal condition[1]. Only those who strongly desire to prove otherwise cling to models suggesting that though not genetic, homosexuality must be influenced in prenatal stages of life. We should not as a society, deceive our children and teach them what is evidenced as false merely to appease those involved in this behavior.

In addition to not being normative, homosexuality has proven to be sexually unhealthy. According to the Hawai`i Department of Health, HIV-AIDS Surveillance Semi-Annual Report, homosexual men made up 84% of those living with HIV/AIDS in our state in 2007 [2]. The prevalence of this disease in homosexual men is staggering compared to that of the rest of the population. Though heterosexuals having higher levels of bacterial infections such as gonorrhea and chlamydia in our state, these are obviously curable. As a society, we try to discourage, especially our youth, from engaging in sexual activity that is harmful, and we should continue to

do so. Normalizing this behavior will promote homosexuality as good and safe rather than expose the high risks associated with it.

This is only one aspect of the way in which legalizing homosexual marriage will affect our society aside from the religious controversy. Marriage is obviously tied to complementarity and reproductive potential as well as health, otherwise we would allow incest. The government's interest in marriage is in large part concerned with societal stability through promotion of positive family structure, which is best achieved in intact biological families. There is such a tremendous number of concerns relating to the state allowing homosexual marriage, and these should be thoroughly considered by the people since society as a whole will be impacted, not merely the small group that wants the privilege of marriage. (Yes, a privilege, not a right. That's why it's not guaranteed in the US Constitution, and we are able to discriminate against certain types of marriage including incestuous, polygamous, and bestial).

The legalization of homosexual marriage is a transformative shift in our society as our state would be sanctioning homosexual activity rather than merely presenting the fact that it exists in minority groups. The legalization of it removes the distinction between gender types in marriage, but by nature, two men and two women are distinctly different than a man and a woman coming together to create a family. Marriage is not about equal social units. It is about children, which two men or two women are never able to produce together. It necessarily, biologically requires genetic input from an individual of the opposite sex. Civil Unions are about equal social units.

Before our legislators make this decision for our state, they should thoroughly investigate the long term effects this will have on our people and the potential negative repercussions, particularly as they pertain to our children, which is our future. Legislative bodies are formed to

enact laws that protect our society, not make laws that will radically shift society without due consideration and consent of the people.

As representatives of the people, this legislative body has a duty to consider the people's needs and desires and to do the greatest good for them. Aside from biological proof of immutability, which has never been produced because it does not exist, the homosexual community has no claim to civil rights as minorities. Therefore, the discussion of this body should be limited to considering whether sanctioning this behavior is in the best interests of society as a whole and of our children in particular.

We, as the people of Hawai'i, do not feel animosity towards homosexuals and would rather live peaceably, each according to his or her own conscience. We respect the Rights of Conscience and the Rights of Free Exercise of Religion guaranteed by our State and US Constitutions for all people, both individuals and organized groups of like minded persons. Being part Native Hawaiian, African American, and Chinese, I realize that this legislation will forever remove my native Hawaiian traditions and customs and my non-native culture. I do not want this imposed upon me by this legislature.

Should such a major societal shift be promoted, it should be done by the people of this state, that is, by society at large and not by a small governing body of 77 persons. Though I appreciate the position and service of our legislators, I am strongly opposed to them making policies that will remove thousands of years of our traditions and force our people to accept activity which we validly do not believe is healthy.

I urge you to put the vote to the people once and for all, by allowing language on a ballot that would entirely approve of or entirely ban homosexual marriage in the Hawai'i Constitution. At the very least, I would ask that this body delay the consideration of this matter and allow time

for it to be properly vetted like other bills. I ask that sincere efforts be put forth to educate the people of our land on how this will impact them. You cannot with integrity "represent" the people if you do not know their minds and hearts on the matter, and you cannot know their true thoughts and feelings if they are incapable of making informed decisions based on lack of knowledge. Please delay this until regular session and allow the people to vote. I thank you for your service and your consideration.

Very sincerely yours,

Kerrie "Nani Li'i" Villers

> Mark Regnerus, a sociologist at the University of Texas at Austin, recently said, "I think you can have social stability without many intact families, but it's going to be really expensive and it's going to look very 'Huxley-*Brave New World*-ish.' So [the intact family is] not only the optimal scenario … but it's the cheapest. How often in life do you get the best and the cheapest in the same package?" [3]
>
> - Quote from Doug Mainwaring, a homosexual opposed to same-sex marriage

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1. Ellis, Mark. "Identical Twins Studies Prove Homosexuality is Not Genetic." Thursday, May 30, 2013. Accessed from http://www.hollanddavis.com/?p=3647 on October 26, 2013.

2. Hawai`i Department of Health. "HIV-AIDS Surveillance Semi-Annual Report." Accessed from http://hawaii.gov/health/healthy-lifestyles/std-aids/aboutus/prg-aids/aids_rep/2h2007.pdf on October 26, 2013.

3. Mainwaring, Doug. "I'm Gay and I Oppose Same-Sex Marriage." Public Discourse, The Witherspoon Institute, March 8th, 2013. Accessed from http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2013/03/9432/ on October 27, 2013.

October 27, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

Re: In Opposition to SB1: The Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Lisa Kai and I am a resident in the Kailua district. I am a parent of three girls and I have taught them values that will guide them through out their life and these values will be passed on to their children. My husband and I have modeled to them what marriage is – it's for a man and a women. My family and I believe in God and God is the center of everything in our lives. If you decide to pass this SB 1 bill this will confuse my children and my grand children. This bill will cause us to make a big decision about education. I will not send them to a public nor a private school. I would have to home school them because I will not allow them to be taught that same-sex marriage is right. This is my choice.

I am asking you to not pass the same-sex marriage in a special session because the people believed they voted on this issue in 1998 – if the polls show that Hawaii favors same-sex marriage, why not let the people vote?

It is my belief that the government's current bill will not protect church leaders' and individual rights.

Thank you for allowing me to share with you today.

Lisa Kai
Kailua, Hawaii
808-277-2977
lisakai@hawaii.rr.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: happilysinging@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:01:23 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Misi Alisa Smith	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I am opposed to SB-1 for several reasons. Before we get to that, though, I have a few questions for our state senate. Would you think it right to demand that a restaurant run by faithful, Orthodox Jews serve bacon with their breakfast entrees? There are certainly many people who love bacon. Perhaps even a majority! They can get bacon elsewhere, sure, but should it be the right of the public to have bacon served everywhere? It might violate that poor Jew's religion - but, after all, you don't demand that he or she eat it! Only that they *serve* it at their personally owned and operated restaurant. Bacon-lovers everywhere, unite! While we're at it, should we insist that our Mormon neighbors serve coffee at their breakfast house? Who doesn't love coffee? Should we preserve their right to practice what they preach? I stand here to witness that -yes!- people need to have the freedom to practice what they preach. This is a God-given and a Constitutionally-protected right. If a Mormon believes God doesn't want people to be addicted to the caffeine in coffee or the alcohol in beer, so be it! If those of Jewish faith believe pigs are unholy and therefore God forbids the eating of bacon, let them keep it off their menu! Now, if a religious group openly preaches that sexual relations are to be had only between a man and a woman lawfully married, is it fair to force that same group to perform a same-gender marriage? Good heavens! NO. That would be the deepest form of hypocrisy. Why anyone would think it right to demand bacon from a Kosher restaurant is quite beyond me. That same logic renders insane the notion that a couple could demand a same-gender marriage be performed by any organization that believes it to be against God's law. I would spend time testifying also of the benefits of raising children in a home where there is a father and a mother in a faithful marriage relationship. I would speak of the decline found in every society throughout history where sexual relations are permitted outside the marriage contract. I would tell you of the importance of our state's law reinforcing and upholding the traditional ideal even if many or most do not achieve it. There are consequences to embracing this new mentality - that marriage exists only for the satisfaction of the adults, and only for as long as it suites them - and the consequences are even less pretty than a diet consisting of only beer, bacon and coffee. Time is up, however, and the time to decide where your vote will lie is NOW. It is morally wrong and socially irresponsible to create a law that *requires* all organizations support same-sex marriage. By the way. Just as a side-note. If you choose to support a bill in favor of such open persecutions of religious liberty in

Hawaii, I will encourage every acquaintance, friend, and relative I have to vote you out in the next election. No hard feelings. Respectfully, Misi Alisa Smith Registered voter in the beautiful state of Hawaii.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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October 27, 2013

Senator
Clayton Hee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
Phone 808-586-7330
Fax 808-586-7334
E-Mail: senhee@capitol.hawaii.gov

S district 23
kane'ohe, Ka'a'awa,
Kahuku, Wailua,
Haleiwa, Wahiawa,
Schofield Barracks,
Kunia

Subject: Opposition SB1, JDL Testimony at The Capitol

Dear Honorable Les Ihara and Members of the committee Maile Shimabukuro,
Mike Grabbard, Brickwood Galuteria, MalamaSolomon, Sam Slom

As a constituent of District **10**, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to SB1 The Marriage equality Act. As a voter in the district you represent in this issue, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process.

I believe that the public should vote on the issue of Same Sex Marriage on just as we did back in 1998, when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve marriage between a man and a woman. The needs to be informed of any legal issues that will affect our lives and we need to be given time to discuss these issues, not the way Governor Abercrombie is acting now.

The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent. This Special Session does not warrant enough time to address detrimental consequences to family unity, confusion to promiscuity to young adolescents, a born nature, which in the 21 century there is no DNA, blood test this is an inherited or biological born behavior not proven ever. This SB1 must put in the ballot for citizens to make a decision.

In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the constituents of District # **10**. Again, I am asserting my opposition to same sex marriage, request be given enough time to be to discuss issues so it could be given on the ballot for the people to vote. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that HE will continue to encourage you in all that you do.

God Bless,

Mauricio Barrietos

858 6th Avenue

Honolulu, HI 96816

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	jerry@rxkl.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:03:40 AM
Attachments:	13.10.27 Testimony SB1.pdf

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jerry Bangerter	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Please accept my written testimony and I would like to testify in person.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

To: The Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor
Hearing Date & Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong OPPOSITION to SB1, relating to "Equality"

Dear Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I strongly OPPOSE Bill SB1. I am opposed to the Legislators deciding about marriage. We the people already decided back in 1998 that we did not want to redefine marriage. As legislators representing the people, you should let the people decide on marriage. I don't know how much more loudly we can speak on this subject. Back in 2009, over 15,000+ people came in **RED** to the Hawaii State Capitol to protest civil unions aka same sex "marriage." Then in 2010, over 20,000+ people came in WHITE to the HI State Capitol to protest civil unions aka same sex "marriage." **These gatherings were the largest groups of people to protest legislation in the history of Hawaii!** I believe the people of Hawai'i already spoke. We spoke in 1998 with 70% of Hawai'i voting FOR Traditional marriage between one man and one woman. We spoke in 2009, with over 15,000+ people at the Capitol in support of Traditional marriage between one man and one woman. We spoke in 2010, with over 15,000+ people at the Capitol in support of Traditional marriage between one man and one woman. And we have a Rally again on Monday. The people of Hawai'i are speaking. Are the legislators listening? **Let the people decide on marriage.**

While the homosexual advocates can barely drum up a hundred people to support their cause, time after time, we who support Traditional marriage between one man and one woman bring thousands to the Capitol time after time to show you that we do NOT want to redefine marriage. Please put the issue on the ballot. **Let the people decide on marriage!**

In the First Amendment, under Federal Law, I have religious rights. I have the right to exercise my religion. But the homosexual advocates are trying to take away my freedom of religion. Where is the homosexual's tolerance towards me and my religious rights? I was driving by some sign wavers who were for same sex marriage and the young girl motioned towards me for support. I was stopped in heavy traffic so I rolled down my window. I told the young girl, "I love you but I don't agree with you." She got angry and said, "Then you don't love me." Since when is disagreeing not loving. I love my husband but I don't always agree with him. I love my children but I don't always agree with them. No one agrees with everyone all the time. Our country was built on the right to freely speak. Isn't that what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. did? He spoke out, freely. Not everyone agreed with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. but he was given the right to free speech. If the homosexuals respect Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. like they say they do, they should allow freedom of speech. I know this bill doesn't say anything about freedom of speech but I see that's where they would like go. **If** we were to allow same sex "marriage," they homosexual advocates won't even stop at same sex "marriage." **In this bill they want to take away our religious rights. Then they will try to take away our parental rights in the public schools. They will try to take away our freedom of speech. They will try to take away our freedom of the press. They will try to silence the Christians and the Conservatives.** But I won't be silenced, legal or not, I will continue to speak the truth. Whether we agree with someone or not, we should be able to have civil discourse. I have the right to disagree! **Let the people decide on marriage!**

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our state's history being decided virtually in one week – one week to have discourse about a marriage tradition that we have celebrated for over 500 years! That doesn't add up. Let's stop this Special Session from going forward and let's put it on the ballot so that **the people can decide on marriage.**

We took a poll. We asked the people 1) Are you a registered voter? 2) Do you think the legislators or the people should decide on marriage? 10% were undecided. 20% said the legislators should decide on marriage. **Over 70% said, Let the people decide!**

At least this bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. What makes this bill so special? Are the homosexual advocates a special group of people who are demanding special rights? Yes, I believe they are. I don't get special rights. You don't get special rights. Why should the homosexual community get special rights? And a Special Session?

After same sex "marriage" was legalized in California, the state legislature approved a bill that mandates the teaching of homosexuality in the public schools. Parents cannot "opt out" their children from these subjects!

After same sex "marriage" was legalized in Connecticut, the state legislature approved a bill that allows public school teachers to cross dress. These cross dressers are permitted to teach, coach and mentor and advise young children! Neither the school board nor the parents can legally object. These cross dressers have access to women's and girl's public bathrooms and lockers throughout the entire state of Connecticut!

This special session is costing taxpayers tons of money. Do you know what tax payers in New York are paying for since same sex "marriage" was legalized in New York? They are paying **millions of dollars** for homosexual –only schools like Harvey Milk High School. We do not want to pay millions more in tax payer dollars!

After same sex "marriage" was legalized in Washington State, the public schools now teach homosexuality in health class.

After same sex "marriage" was legalized in Iowa, school teachers are forced to teach LGBT as safety – they now have a safety class.

After same sex "marriage" was legalized in Massachusetts, they gave out "The Little Black Book" (go to www.massresistance.org to see it) to Middle School and High School students. It's male homosexual pornography with a list of "Gay" Bars! Massachusetts also has "Gay Days" and parents are not notified in advance. A parent of a kindergartner, David Parker was arrested for protesting his son being taught homosexuality without his knowledge. He was arrested! I could go on and on about Massachusetts because my niece has gone to school there before they moved.

I could go on and on about incidents that occurred in Minnesota, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maryland, Maine, Delaware and Rhode Island after same sex "marriage" was legalized. I could write pages and pages.

Do you know what Former Representative Blake Oshiro who now works in the Governor's office said about all these horrible things that are already happening in other states? Blake Oshiro said "This parade of horribles…NONE of those things would actually ever happen." Not only are they happening in states where same sex "marriage" has been legalized but they are planning some of those things for Hawai'i! **Blake Oshiro is lying.**

When we fought against HB444 and the other civil rights bill, the ACLU submitted written public testimony and in that testimony they said that they would stop at civil rights. They said they wouldn't go on to try to legalize same sex marriage. Guess what? **They lied.**

We know that statistics all over the United States consistently show that approx. 70% of the people are still for Traditional Marriage between one man and one woman. The last poll in Hawaii showed that over 68% of the people in Hawaii are still for Traditional Marriage between one man and one woman. When we call some of the legislators, they tell us that they get more emails and phone calls from those who support same sex "marriage." **They either don't know the truth because they have homosexual advocates answering their telephones or they're lying.**

The Media says the legislators got the numbers to pass the bill. They say this bill is going to pass easily. (They're lying.) We haven't even had any hearings yet. What ever happened to due process**? It's the legislators' job to represent the people.**

We will continue with this fight against same sex "marriage"…not only for ourselves but for our keiki. They would be the ones to suffer the most!!! We know we have the numbers. We have a huge voice. We are using our voices to uphold a righteous standard here in Hawaii. The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in the Righteousness of Jesus Christ. May He continue to bless our efforts to uphold righteousness in our land…for the sake of our keiki.

And I say to all the legislators: Let the people decide!

Margaret Scow
Mililani, HI 96789

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: daydano18@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:10:48 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Dayton Dano	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I feel that the people of Hawaii should decide on the true meaning of marriage, which i think is man and woman only. Also i think that the government is scared that the bill will not pass if the people of Hawaii vote so they need the special session so that the vote will go their way.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: David Stanley
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Special Legislative Session
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:12:54 PM

Dear Representatives,
I am writing to voice my position to you as my representatives regarding the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act. By trying to pass this through on a special legislative session, you are usurping the will of the people. This is such a critical issue and one which deserves thoughtful discourse and debate, citizen feedback, committee scrutiny, and if necessary, referendum. The legislation, as drafted, opens up huge potential lawsuits and other unintended consequences. I am deeply concerned with your rush to push this legislation. I have heard from my representatives that they have received far more feedback against this legislation than for it, but that they discount those against as being uninformed or somehow made up. You must consider the will of the people on this matter and a special legislative session is NOT the proper way to handle this. I wish to know your intentions for this legislation.
Sincerely,
David Stanley
3630 Maunalei Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: bdano96744@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:17:01 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Brennan Dano	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I feel that the people of Hawaii should decide on the true meaning of marriage, which i think is man and woman only. Also it goes against our religion and our representative in our district is not even listening to the majority of the people in our district who are against this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: sheydan.dano@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:18:23 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Sheydan Dano	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I feel that the people should vote on the marriage law because I would not like to people who like the same gender in schools and in the public it looks wrong to the eye and that is not how god made it.

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: aaroncampbel@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:19:34 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Aaron Campbell	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Aloha Senate Committee, I am writing to voice my strong opposition to SB1. I am requesting that you allow us the people of Hawaii to vote on this issue and not take away our right to decide for ourselves. I believe this legislation is going against the will of the people. If you are to truly represent us then allow us to determine this (again) via a vote. Mahalo, Erin Campbell Laie, HI 96762

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Janella Hung
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong Opposition to SB 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:30:45 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lori Rutherford
Honolulu, HI 96818

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee,
My name is Joshua Ko and I am the Youth Pastor of First Assembly of God, a multi-site youth ministry meeting in four different locations across Oahu. I am speak in opposition to SB1, relating to same-sex marriage.
A certain representative stated that, “majority of people under 30 years old, are indifferent to the issue of same-sex marriage and do not care about what happens.” Essentially that this generation does not really care about the matter at hand. **I would like to challenge that.** I believe that this generation lives by conviction and knows right from wrong when they are faced with such an issue. That if given a chance to be heard, they would be able to make the right decision. This past week, I have seen youth within different High schools and churches take a stand for marriage by writing letters, calling and meeting with their representatives, signing petitions, praying, fasting, and taking a stand; practicing there 1st amendment rights. Are these student naive? No...I believe they live by conviction understanding that they cannot live their lives in violation to their God given conscience to do nothing on such an important issue as marriage.They live by conviction and do not falter on political jargon.This is an important issue for them. Why would the governor try to ram such an important issue such as marriage within a "Special Session", a 5-day congressional legislator? Why the rush? He knows that if he gave the public a chance to speak up, to decide on the issue, that this bill would not go through.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Yes, these MS/HS students may not own a car, don’t pay bills, don’t have a life long career. Some cannot vote right now, but in a couple of years they will be able to vote. Students do care about the issue and will not remain silent!

Thank you for allowing me to testify!

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

<u>13 reasons to vote No on the unconstitutional Same Sex marriage bill</u>

1. Would further the rampant spread of AIDS and STD's in the Gay community to others especially children being taught that homosexual has no consequences and is lifestyle choice.(See details below*)
2. Accommodations laws do not supersede the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. It's against the constitution for Government to legislate laws against the freedom of religion and rights of conscience.
3. Sexual orientation is defined by the act of sex. No one has the right to have sex with anybody that they want to. So by definition it cannot be equivalent to a civil right. If Sexual orientation becomes a right than those who are oriented to have sex with non-consensual women or men (rape & sodomy), underage children (pedophile), family members (incest), animals (bestiality) claim it as civil right as well.
4. Negative unintended consequences to existing laws and businesses, education, family morals and many aspects of society are countless and irreparable.
5. Those who support this controversial and negative societal change might not be accountable to the majority of the people and the Democratic voting of the people but they will have to answer to God who mentions biblically that it would be better for them to be thrown in the water with millstone tied to their neck then for them to cause the little ones to stumble towards evil and sin. So called Christians legislators are going to be held to a higher standard.
6. A very small fragment percentage of society will even use the law. All supposedly equal treatment and rights were already addressed in the Civil Unions and Reciprocal Beneficiaries bills passed into law. I guess the Homosexual lobbyists must have all been lying before about those laws they demand in the past.

7. Every cultural in the history of the world recognizes marriage between a man and a women, if they did they all began to be gay that culture would only exist for one generation and be gone to extinction.
8. Homosexuality is a major reason for Islamic Terrorism towards the United States.
9. Lawsuits and legal issues from this poorly written and unconstitutional bill and issue will tie down the legislature for years to come and cost the state millions of dollars.
10. Death threats and persecution of religious leaders and those opposing the homosexuality lobby would continue to go unpublished, unaddressed and flourish in the light of political correctness. Hate crimes and prejudice will continue to increase against Christian law abiding citizens.
11. The bill is poorly written contradicting itself when it eliminates the use of gender based terms like Husband and Wife on page 4 line 21 but then uses the terms on page 8 line 1.
12. The bill is discriminatory on the basis of race and ethnicity since page 7 lines 3-5 state that "The respective parties do not stand in relation to each other of ancestor and descendent of any degree whatsoever." So those you are of the same race and ancestry it will not allow be able to marry. Filipino to Filipino, Japanese to Japanese, Hawaiian to Hawaiian, etc.
    Definition of descendent: **a person considered as descended from some ancestor or race**
13. This bill illegally creates a tax on not profit Churches without stating in the Bills title as is required.
    SB1, the gay marriage bill to be considered in a special legislative session beginning October 28, contains within it an implied finding that marriage-related church functions, until now regarded as non-profit, will be considered a 'for-profit' activity. As a result, state and possibly federal taxes will be imposed on previously tax-exempt revenues generated on or after the bill's effective date of November 18, 2013. This will apply to all churches generating marriage-related revenue -- whether or not they accept gay marriage.
    SB1 is also incorrect in form because it does not mention taxation in the bill title or description. The word "tax" appears nowhere in the text of the bill. The Hawaii Legislators' Handbook points out: "A (bill) title must include a distinct reference to the subject matter to which it relates and also cover but one subject."

*** Physical Consequences of Homosexual Behavior**

STDs

Every year, according to the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii, homosexual males must be tested for:

- HIV
- HSV

- Syphilis*
- Rectal Gonorrhea
- Rectal Chlamydia
- Urethral CT & GC
- Pharyngeal Gonorrhea

*As of March 10, 2010, the Center for Disease Control reported 91-173 cases of syphilis per 100,000 men who have sex with men, compared to two cases per 100,000 other men, and one case per 100,000 women.**1**

In addition to being tested for STDs, homosexual males that have multiple partners which is about 97% of all homosexual males, every three to six months, the John Burns School of Medicine recommends that they are tested for Methamphetamine use.

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Testimony in Opposition of SB1

Dear Chairman Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am keiki o ka aina,: a Hawaii public school graduate, a 25 year Air Force veteran, a practicing doctor for 30 years. My children include a pharmacist, a marine biologist and Coast Guard officer, and a microbiologist.

My heart is broken when I hear how our governor is trying to ramrod Senate Bill 1 through in a special session while bypassing the peoples right to a vote on this contentious topic. I stand against any effort to define marriage by legislation under the guise of a civil rights action. We know it has still not been decisively proven that homosexuality is anything more than a sexual practice preference or orientation, despite what popular culture would have us believe. That said, it cannot be be legitimized by simple legislative process, and treated as skin color, true unaltered gender or ethnicity. We must acknowledge that this is a complex issue- we must let the people be heard and let the people vote.

I personally do not care what a couple does in their own bedroom; but this bill goes far beyond that. I believe it represents a battle for our keiki and I stand firmly against any effort to legitimize and elevate a lifestyle that can only perpetuate and multiply, not by procreation but by assimilation of the children of heterosexual unions. Anyone who has seen the battle for the child in countries like Canada who have legalized homosexual marriages would be shocked that we also would even consider teaching about and affirming sexual practices like anal and oral sex in our elementary schools.

I stand firmly against legalizing same sex marriage. I am absolutely against pushing this bill through without allowing the people of Hawaii a chance to express their opinion based on an open vote. That is not the democratic way! It will take boldness for our public servants to stand against mainland monied special interests like the "Freedom to Marry" group (that reports 0.7 same gender couples out of 100), and to stand in favor of the vast majority of the people of Hawaii.

Please stand for the people of Hawaii by voting "NO" against Senate Bill 1!

Greg Young
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We the people voted you in and trusted that you would protect the fundamental democratic principles. Therefore, having a five day special session is NOT ample time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time. Nor can any amendments be made to legislation. This insults the democratic process and rob the people's rights to be heard, which I'm sure is not your intent.

I am therefore opposing SB1 and implore you to please respect and defend the democratic process and allow a Constitutional Amendment which would better address same-sex marriage and allow for public input.

If it is true that the attitudes have changed toward same-sex marriage, then PELASE allow the people to vote on this crucial issue that will have a tremendous impact and ramification that has not been thoroughly thought out on our beloved aina and its almost 1.4 million residents.

I believe all of you have been allowed to be in your position for such a time as this to uphold our state's motto: The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.

In closing, as a reminder our government is of the people, by the people, for the people...

Thank you and Respectfully,

Noela Nance
Honolulu, HI 96818

From:	Shawn Luiz
To:	JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Testimony re SB1- Relating To Equal Rights
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:48:19 AM

October 26, 2013
Via Email to: JDLTestimony-InPerson@capitol.hawaii.gov

Clayton Hee, Chair
Judiciary and Labor Committee on
SB1- Relating To Equal Rights
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

For almost sixteen years I have practiced law in the federal and State Courts of Hawaii. Some of these cases involved federal and state civil rights. I believe the Hawaii State Legislature should be made aware of the following empirical evidence prior to voting on this issue.

The Ramifications of Same-sex "Marriage" are aptly demonstrated through the observed impact upon Massachusetts.

The impact in Massachusetts since the courts granted gays the right to marry has been:

I. Training Video Teaching Gay Pride in Schools

A training video created by Women's Educational Media for teachers shows what you can expect in our Hawaii elementary schools if gay marriage is created by the State. It included statements such as, "Waiting to teach children to accept differences of all kinds until middle school or high school is too late." In one segment, teachers discuss teaching homosexuality to children even if parents have moral objections to it, concluding that it had to be taught regardless of parental objections. In particular, note the attitudes being instilled in young minds that any opposition to gay marriage or homosexuality is mean and hateful and the use of peer pressure to enforce that prejudice.

II. Legal Actions against Parents

The Massachusetts courts have also held that the schools have no requirement to notify parents when teaching about homosexuality even in Kindergarten.

U.S. District Judge Mark L. Wolf dismissed a civil rights lawsuit brought by David Parker, ordering that it is reasonable; indeed there is an obligation, for public schools to teach young children to accept and endorse homosexuality. Wolf essentially adopted the reasoning in a brief submitted by a number of homosexual-advocacy groups, who said "the rights of religious freedom and parental control over the upbringing of children would undermine teaching and learning."

III. Attack on Religious Adoption Agencies

Gay activists' efforts have forced the Catholic Charities of Boston, begun in 1903, to cease its adoption services rather then comply with state law requiring placement of children with homosexual couples.

IV. Tolerance Not the Objective of the Gay Lobby

The foregoing examples aptly illustrate the activist Gay Lobby's legal agenda is not mutual tolerance but use of the power of state to force their views upon everyone else.

While decrying hate speech, they are teaching it to young impressionable children in the schools, teaching them that anyone who believes that homosexuality is wrong is an ignorant bigot.

The Gay Lobby wants to silence all disagreement and attempts to do so by twisting words and terms.

Christians are called hypocrites. Those with traditional morals or religious beliefs are called homophobic. Disagreement is called hate. Honest opponents are called bigots, hypocrites and forces of darkness. Teaching homosexuality to young children is called preparing them to become engaged and productive citizens. See ***Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 565 U.S.*** ___ 2012), a United States Supreme Court case in which the Court unanimously ruled that federal discrimination laws do not apply to religious organizations' selection of religious leaders. The Court noted that tolerance is a two way street.

V. The First Amendment is an individual right that applies to individuals, not just Churches

In what may be the most recent decision concerning whether one surrenders free exercise rights because one's engages in business activity, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, sitting e***n banc***, recently ruled that laws protecting religious freedom apply equally to businesses and their owners. ***Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. v. Sebelius***, 723 F.3d 1114 (10th Cir. 2013) (en banc). The ***Hobby Lobby*** case arose as one of the many challenges to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("ACA")'s requirement that certain businesses must offer their employees health insurance that includes coverage for contraceptives and abortifacients. ***Id***. at 1122-23. The owners of Hobby Lobby, the Green family, are Christians who make decisions for their business according to the dictates of their faith. ***Id***. at 1122. "[O]ne aspect of the Greens' religious commitment is a belief that human life begins when sperm fertilizes an egg. In addition, the Greens believe it is immoral for them to facilitate any act that causes the death of a human embryo." ***Id***. Consequently, the Greens and their business, Hobby Lobby, objected to offering abortifacient coverage. ***Id***. at 1125. Hobby Lobby and its owners faced the terrible choice of violating their faith or paying massive taxes imposed on businesses that refused to obey the dictates of the ACA. ***Id***.

The district court ruled that businesses are not entitled to protection under the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which protects free exercise rights. ***Id***. at 1128. On June 27, 2013, the 10th Circuit Court overturned that ruling, finding that Hobby Lobby not only has free exercise rights, but those rights were burdened by the ACA's abortifacient requirement. ***Id***. The court held that "because the contraceptive-coverage requirement places substantial pressure on Hobby Lobby and Mardel [another business owned by the Green family] to violate their sincere religious beliefs, their exercise of religion is substantially burdened[.]" ***Id***. at 1137-38.

The ***Hobby Lobby*** court rightly decided that business owners should not have to be forced to choose between engaging in business and following their faith.

VI. The Legal Impact locally

Several cases have been brought against Churches here in Hawaii for refusing to rent their property for same- sex celebrations. The same happened in New Jersey, Massachusetts and Califormia. I am counsel of record together with Jim Hochberg, Joe LaRue and Joe Infranco of Alliance Defending Freedom (***pro hac vice***) in Cervelli vs. Aloha Bed & Breakfast, CAAP-13-0000806. The case is currently pending before the Intermediate Court of Appeals, State of Hawaii regarding First Amendment matters with religious freedom and the Hawaii Public Accomodations Law. See also the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal's recent decision in ***Fair Housing Council of San Fernando Valley v. Roommate.com, LLC***, 666 F.3d 1216 (9th Cir. 2012). The Ninth Circuit held that applying nondiscrimination laws to homeowners inviting roommates into their private homes would raise severe intimate associational concerns. ***Id***. at 1222. To avoid these constitutional concerns, the Ninth Circuit interpreted the FHA so that it did not apply to private homeowners sharing space with others in their own homes. ***Id***. at 1222. This followed the "well-established principle that statutes will be interpreted to avoid constitutional difficulties." ***Id***. (***citing Frisby v. Schultz***, 487 U.S. 474, 483 (1988)).

VII. Summation

From the actual history of the legally enforced implementation of gay rights in the schools and courts, they use the law and the courts to threaten and harass anyone who disagrees with their views and to shut down freedom of speech and to deny parents the right to control the moral teaching of their children. The Gay Lobby's view of tolerance is one sided, using the force of law to promote their views while exercising that same force to limit the freedom of those who disagree with them.

Also, peculiar language is found in the SB1 regarding whether Churches rent their property out for marriages for a profit. As you are well aware, Churches are tax-exempt under federal law. The Statute appears to give the HCRC authority to investigate already exempt non-profit entities to determine if they are making a profit regarding marriages which makes no sense at all.

As a civil rights practitioner, it is apparent the end result: this resulting one sided use of the power of

the state to force their views upon everyone else will to only lead to intolerance for everyone else's views on the matter. Such is the case in any system elevating one group at the expense of another. Throughout history we have seen what happens when one group's rights is abdicated to appease another group. The Judiciary Committee should discern this strategy and table SB 1.

/s/Shawn A. Luiz

Regards,
Shawn A. Luiz

Shawn A. Luiz
Attorney at Law
1132 Bishop Street, Suite 1520
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel. 808.538-0500
Fax. 808.538-0600

From:	Chris Beach
To:	All Reps; All Senators; JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject:	Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:26:50 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

It is not 'equal rights' that we are deciding. That is a cover created to hide the gross indecency of this bill. Let marriage stand between one man and one woman. Let it serve as a testimony from Hawaii to the rest of the world that we value life, appropriate procreation, and God's Eternal Plan of Happiness. It makes me sick to think about what is happening in California after the evilness of this generation strangled that state's morality. Do not allow Hawaii to be covered by that same curtain of sin. I'm not against free-agency. People will do what they will, but don't condone the very act that destroys the fabric of stable society. Protect our children. Protect our moral agency. Do not promote or accept any path that forces a religious institution to perform, support, celebrate, or even be forced to claim indifference to same-sex marriage. At the very least, let the people decide. DO NOT decide without them. Do not destroy a moral society AND democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Christopher Beach
95-1027 Kuahewa Street
Mililani, HI 96789

Written testimony to JDL, SB1
10/28/2013 10:30 a.m.
Testifying in person.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the legislature and the supporters of this bill I respect your desire to get married.

HOWEVER - I do not agree with the content of this legislation.

IAW the U.S. Constitution. The First Amendment which prohibits denial of the:

- free exercise of religion,
- abridging the freedom of speech,
- infringing on the freedom of the press,
- interfering with the right to peaceably assemble
- Prohibiting the petitioning for a governmental redress of grievances.

The Gallup organization did a pole in 2013,

- surveying/polling 200,000 people
- in 6 months- the pole
- Conclusions were 3.5% of the U.S. population is professed gay/lesbian.

Which means 97% of the population is not

Reviewing the language in the Constitution and SB1. I am convinced

SB1 is:

1. Does not to the full extent of existing law and the Constitution provide Equal Protection to those who are not gay or lesbian: Which is 97 % of the population
2. SB1 is written to favor a single "special interest group or the 3.5 % of the population.
3. SB1 Violates the 1 Amendment rights of 97% of the citizens/population.

- SB1 Section 572 – B "Gender Neutral" language is not written to exclusively pertain to same sex marriage or civil unions. This vague and non definitive language opens the flood gate and gives the supporters of this bill and other(s) like it to use its legal precedence to further create .."Carte Blanche" legislation trumping Parental & Children's 1St Amendment Rights, which current laws in other states and Canada gives radical gay and lesbian groups dominance in the control over minds and curriculum of all of the Kekiis public school.

Regarding the use of a special session. Our Chief Executive is either using very bad judgment or he has crossed the line and is abusing his executive powers when he called a Special Session

There is no national emergency "9/11"or supper ferry issue to call a special session.

he and his supporters are showing their intent to impose their will. Their attempt to ram rod SB1,

show's their distain towards the majority of the residents of this State.

In the current SB1 Draft bill Dated 28 Oct 2013.. I believe the following lines should be changed to protect all of our civil rights and 1st amendment rights.
PLEASE CHANGE in SB1

Page 2 Line 11 – (3) Protect religious freedom and liberty by --- should be changed to

PROTECT 1st Amendment Rights given to every citizen of this state under the United States Constitution

Page 5 section 572 titled "Interpretation of terminology to be gender neutral"

line 3 – states – "decisions, common law or any other source of law…

Please change the bill to say …
"explicit only to civil unions or same sex marriage"..

Finally – Please consider all of our Constitutional rights and the future of your children and mines,

Respectfully

- Kill this bill
- Vote "no" against SB1
- Allow the people to speak thru a "vote"
- "Ban same sex marriage" in this state once and for all for the greater good of all the citizens of the State of Hawaii.

To: The Committee Hearing the Same Sex Marriage Act SB1

Regarding: The same sex marriage bill, going before the State Legislation on October 28, 2013.

I have a lot of friends and associates who are gay. I DO NOT however support the current same sex marriage bill, SB1369, or any version thereof. I especially do not support the fact that the current bill going before the Legislature does not exempt religious organizations or businesses from being forced to participate in same sex marriages. I am an Electrician on Oahu and I am writing to you because my various domiciles and business addresses span several wards and political boundaries within this state. I have included one of my business mailing addresses below encase you feel the need, or would like to, correspond with me or respond to this letter.

I have been reviewing and re-reviewing this matter and have talked with people on both sides of this issue to better understand it. My main objection is that this bill creates what I refer to as **Marriage Superiority, not Marriage Equality**. If I for example as a man wanted to get married to a women there is no law that allows me to choose any religious denomination, and impose my desire to marry her on them regardless of my own religious affiliation. Religious organizations are member based and primarily only marry members of their own faith. A Christian couple for example would have a hard time finding a Jewish Synagogue, Buddhist Temple, or a Muslim Mosque that would marry them. Even long term members of a specific faith must ask their clergy for their blessing and permission to be married by them. That clergy can withhold or deny their marriage until they see fit, because they want them to meet certain religious or personal standards first. The clergy do this to ensure that their union will be done correctly, and hopefully give them a firm foundation on which to build a lasting marriage. Why then is the Gay and Lesbian community being granted Marriage Superiority in which they can force themselves upon practically any religious organization or small business at any time with no prerequisites that would be required of members of that faith? Why are they being given special access to that which I myself and the vast majority of others do not have access to?

The only group of people that I know that have special access to facilities, by law, is those with disabilities. For example a person in a wheel chair should have access to any bank of his/her choosing. That however is for physical access only! That person must still qualify to use the banks services however by; proving their financial worthiness, showing proof of an acceptable financial history, and they must be a qualified member in good standing with that bank. Granting them access to the bank does not grant them access to their vaults, their private business practices, or special programs that they reserve for only the best members. Yet this marriage act grants same sex couples unprecedented access similar to this, to any and all religious organizations and small businesses. I would certainly hope that the State is not attempting to say that being homosexual is some type of disability, as that would certainly enrage people on both sides of this issue. Even if they did however that still would not justify granting this type of superior access, this type of Marriage Superiority.

I support the rights of those, regardless of sexual orientation, who wish to live happily together, and have equal access to whatever financial benefits that may come with it under a civil union. It must be made very clear however that having the right to a civil union does not give them the right to

demand that religious organizations and small businesses be forced to provide services to them to obtain that union. Using the word marriage, in the same sex marriage bill, now drastically changes the dynamic of the union of these couples, and what they can hence demand of the community, religious organizations, and small businesses.

There have already been several accounts of bakers, photographers, and various pastors/ministers being sued throughout the nation for not wanting to participate in same sex marriages, or for providing their services or facilities for them. In its current form this same sex marriage bill does not provide protection to religious organizations and small businesses that do not want to participate. In fact the current wording could be construed to make it seem as if they are being forced to participate. It must be made very clear in the bill that those organizations are under no obligation to provide services for such couples. It should also state that religious organization and businesses still maintain the right to refuse service to anyone, especially if that service is not in the best interest of, or to the detriment of the providing party. This should be especially true if that couple is not members of that religious organization, or regular patrons of that business.

Although I am not Catholic I agree with the premise raised by The Roman Catholic Bishop of Honolulu, Larry Silva, in which he asked, "Would churches that refuse to celebrate same-sex marriage because of deeply held religious convictions be deprived of the freedom to live those convictions?" and "Would Christians, Muslims, and others who believe that homosexual acts are contrary to God's law be persecuted for holding on to those beliefs?"

It would seem plausible to me that some gay or lesbian couples who are seeking such services from unwilling parties are doing so to entrap them into litigation. That is especially true in regards to a union or marriage wherein one would surmise that the loving couple would only want those services provided to them by someone who believes in their heart that it is right and proper. Hence, it again begs the question of why would anyone, gay or straight, want a hostile or unwilling party to provide for, or preside over, what is supposed to be the happiest day of their lives?

The current bill would leave open the door for discrimination litigation that would tax an already overburdened legal system in Hawaii. These lawsuits would not only create a burden for the party being sued but for the State as well. This could potentially cost the courts system in Hawaii hundreds of thousands of dollars and possibly millions of dollars over the years to come. It would thereby have a negative impact on the State budget especially considering that the projected windfall of tax revenue from gay civil unions in Hawaii, following the passage of Senate bill 232, never happened. Hence there would be no way to offset those litigation expenses without reaching into tax payers' pockets. In fact there were only 417 couples who took advantage of civil unions from January 1, 2012 until July 5, 2012 according to Wikipedia. That low amount of unions most likely did not even create enough tax revenue to cover the cost of the legislative process of passing that bill, let alone be able to cover the potentially massive costs of future litigation that could be caused by this new bill.

In an exchange with one Republican state legislator, the Governor actually admitted that he foresaw "gay marriage" possibly leading to various litigations and potentially even polygamous unions.

[The legislator] asked the Governor, "Based on your reasoning that Same-Sex Marriage is a civil right, then how can you disenfranchise a bi-sexual from marrying the people he/she loves?"

His response, "I fully expect a lawsuit to be filed in about a year."

There are religious institutions that only marry people of their own faith, within their own facilities, presided over by ordained members of their own faith. This is considered by those member couples to be a privilege and not a right. This is true of the vast majority of religious institutions and churches here in Hawaii. Some clergy will even interview with a perspective couple prior to marriage and in some cases not condone that marriage until certain criteria are meet. Forcing clergy to marry, what some would consider an unworthy couple could drastically undermine the authority of those clergy. To change that dynamic would undoubtedly greatly injure those institutions and their membership. I believe that a marriage is a union under God between one man and one woman. I would not support, or be a member of, a Church that believed in or otherwise capitulated in any way to support any other type of marriage. Civil union is one thing, and gay and lesbians have been afforded that right, but the sacred institution of marriage under God is something completely different.

The current bill I feel also infringes on the separation of church and state in that it creates a de facto environment in which religious leaders would be forced, under the threat of litigation, to maybe violate their own beliefs. Thereby the State would acquiesce into changing the basic premise of some churches. Those churches would, under and through a perceived force of law upon them, by not abiding by this new law in its entirety, be subject to the State, and within its control, and thereby again this bill would be violating the separation of church and State.

This bill should include verbiage that EXEMPTS religious organizations and small businesses from being forced to provide for its implementation. This is especially true if participation violates a basic premise of their faith or business model and could significantly affect their membership and or their patronage. We live in a free market society and forcing a business to cater to any one segment of people is not in keeping with free market ideals. There are plenty of organizations that would freely and openly support such a union, but those who don't should not be forced to.

We, that vast majority, have agreed to tolerate and even support gay unions to a limited degree. This has been a great lesson in tolerance to all. The gay and lesbian community however must in turn be willing to tolerate our ideals as well and not force their way of life upon us. Tolerance after all, is a two-way street.

I believe that the needs of the many out way the needs of the one or the few, but the rights of the many should never out way the rights of the few. There is a balance however in that even the minority cannot impose or force their beliefs on the majority, especially when the majority has already conceded to bending or compromising their ideals for the benefit of that minority.

In conclusion I again state that I DO NOT support the same sex marriage bill that is going before the legislature on October 28, 2013. I also will not support or even continue to support legislatures who do. Thank you for your time and consideration in this regard.

David W. Eastman
(808) 341-2546
6800 Kalanianaole Hwy #129
Honolulu HI, 96825

From: Janella Hung
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:27:58 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Evelyn Robello
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: Hawaii Defending Marriage
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson; All Senators; All Reps
Subject: Fwd: Jason Iaea; opposition to S.B1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:28:26 AM

Jason Iaea

Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

October 23, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair

The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Marriage is between a man and wife and the majority of the people in Hawaii fell this way. This Act alters and redefines marriage. Our founding fathers would be rolling in their graves right now if they could see what was happing. Thank you for all your service,

Jason Iaea

From: Karin Kaneshige
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Written Testimony in Opposition to Special Session and SB 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:28:24 AM

Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am unable to give testimony in person this week but as a concerned voter and citizen I am submitting this testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage in Hawaii.

I ASK YOU TO PLEASE ALLOW THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII TO DECIDE USING THE DEMOCRATIC VOTING PROCESS THE PEOPLE DESERVE!

Thank you for your time and attention.

Karin Kaneshige
94-240 Olua Place
Waipahu, HI 96797

From: Janella Hung
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Strong Opposition to SB 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:29:46 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Carol Nakashima
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: Feki Po"uha
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I oppose sb1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:29:47 AM

I am a registered voter in Hawaii and I oppose sb1

Feki Pouha
Kahuku HI 96731

Chairman Clayton Hee
Senate Judiciary Committee
Re: SB1
Oct 26,3013

Dear Chairman Hee and committee members,

My name is Francis Oda. I am speaking against the passage of SB1.

I am Senior Pastor of New Life Church. In this capacity, I am very concerned that the language of SB1 would have our facility probably classified as a "public accommodation". We use our facilities for many things which include those not "members" including movies, parties, fairs and mid-week classes. We also rent the church to another congregation on a weekly basis. The language of SB1 would open the church to legal challenges should a same-sex couple wish to use our facility and we, as a matter of faith, decide not to allow its use for this purpose. This is a serious abridgment of our 1st Amendment right of Freedom Of Religion.

In addition, I seriously question the manner that this bill, which will cause major societal change, is being rushed through the process. The public deserves the right to discuss this proposal thoroughly. Prior discussions involved civil unions. The only other public discussion on same-sex marriage was over a decade ago. Public input should be considered and, as appropriate, should modify the proposed bill. As it is, it's my understanding that there will be no amendments considered. This is contrary to the concept of a democratic and transparent process.

I believe that this is a flawed bill that, in the effort to provide marriage to same-sex couples, literally compromises a foundational Constitutional right of a great number of citizens. I believe that the Legislature can and should do better. I, therefore ask you to vote "No" on this bill and possibly reconsider it in the regular session.

Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony.
Francis Oda
88 Wailupe Circle
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821
francisseijioda@gmail.com

From: Desiree Adams
To: JDLTestimony; JUDSStestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: Tesitfy on Monday to protest against same sex marriages
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:52:35 AM

Aloha,

My name is Desiree Adams, and I strongly oppose the same-sex bill that is up for discussion during the secret session on Monday, October 28th. I firmly believe that if this bill should pass it will jeopardize religious freedoms here in Hawaii.

I would like to testify in person tomorrow. Please let me know that you have received this and what time I would need to be there. I feel so strongly about this that I am taking the whole day off of work to represent my family here in this state.

Mahalo,

Desiree Adams

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:02:08 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Clifton
Last Name:	Burchfield
Email:	cliftwo@hotmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to vote no on this bill and that you thereby allow the people of Hawaii to decide the issue of marriage. By calling this Special Session the Governor and this legislature are working against the will of the people and against a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. I do support equality and liberty for all people and this includes the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to a social issue with possibly the most broad impact of any in our history as a Nation, a State or a Kingdom being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The

people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Clifton Lee Burchfield, II
The loving community of Aiea in the Great State of Hawaii 96701

From: WordPress
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: I am Opposed to SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:05:15 PM

I stand in defense of traditional marriage, due process and democracy, and therefore, strongly oppose SB1.

User Submitted Values:

First Name:	Audrey
Last Name:	Ravia
Email:	audrey.talila@gmail.com
Tell Our Lawmakers Why You Oppose SB1:	To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special

session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Audrey Ravia
Laie, Hawaii, 96762

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: jyochung@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:00:42 AM
Attachments: Testimony.pages

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jacob Chung Jr.	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people.

The people of Hawaii should not be forced to decide between Constitutional 1st Amendment rights versus any possibility of being sued for desiring to uphold beliefs including those concerning marriage. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided in an inadequate period of a week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic due process by allowing it to go through a regular session where it can be thoroughly vetted and examined as all critical bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate hundreds of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thanks again for the opportunity to testify.

James Lui

Honolulu, HI 96822

Jarrell James Mahusay
94-543 Lumiaina Street #U201
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

I Vote **NO** to Senate Bill 1, authorizing same-sex marriage.

I am Christian and a former Naval Submarine Officer, who diligently served our country for 4 years. I currently manage a non-profit organization, Reveille Hawaii, aimed at connecting military members with the Hawaiian community. Our goal is to help with the epidemic of homelessness, drugs, and the needs of the Hawaiian people, through volunteerism, fund raising, and grateful hearts.

I am affected directly by this bill because of 3 reasons: It prohibits my core beliefs and my faith, which I have practiced all my life. It denies me my civil rights to choose, by vote, to disallow this bill. This bill also affects my livelihood and my ability to act upon my faith.

I have practiced Christianity since my birth on May 15, 1981. My family has practiced Christianity for generations dating back to our origins in the Philippines. My belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior requires us to live in such a way that we honor Him with the choices I make. Homosexuality is considered a Sin; not unlike drug abuse or alcoholism, all of which are defined by the Bible as immoral and should not be encouraged according to my faith practice. Same-sex marriage will significantly impact my ability to profess my faith through daily life as well as the lives of my future children by forcing my family to choose to follow the teachings of my God or to follow the law by condoning homosexuality. I will not and cannot follow any law that would be contrary to my beliefs as my resolve to follow my God and His teachings will supersede any law that maybe enacted. In spite of any decision by legislation, I will continue to live peacefully before all people regardless of their decision towards sexual orientation but I am incapable of recognizing any marriage not between a man and a woman. Marriage has been defined since ancient times as the union of a man and a woman, and whose purpose is the capacity to produce life naturally. Marriage has always been characterized by biblical terms, between man and woman, since the age of the Hawaiian kingdom. Hawaii must maintain a separation of church and state by denying passage of Senate Bill 1; marriage has always been a church institution regardless of faith background and is only recognized by the state through taxation purposes. For these reasons I must comply with the mandates by my God to proclude my faith and cannot endorse same-sex marriage.

This bill infringes my right to vote as defined by Amendment 18 of the U.S. Constitution. Although a previous bill permits the legislative body of the state of Hawaii to decide the validity of same-sex marriage, a bill whose affects of this magnitude should not be decided by an in accurate, and extremely small sample size of the state population represented only by a handful of legislative representatives. A vote of the people of Hawaii must be required in order to prove the desire of the

people to support this bill. Through the interactions of my non-profit organization and the Hawaiian people, I have determines that a cultural frustration of the people is the constant silencing of their voice and rights. This bill further exemplifies the neglect of the people to choose for themselves their desired course of governance. As a new and permanent resident of Hawaii for 3 years, I desire a chance to voice my vote and to vote no on this bill. Do not deny the people their voice, history has taught us that those who support the wishes of the people and their ability to choose are beloved and remembered, while those who deny the peoples right to choose are ostracized and culpable.

This bill directly affects my livelihood and the practice of my faith. My non-profit organization is based on Biblical principles, the act of giving, serving, comforting, and love towards all people regardless of race, creed, or sexual orientation. In conjunction with these principles are the directives to uphold morality as defined by the Bible, which include but are not limited to abuse prevention, poverty, as well as homosexuality. I am not able to carry out my duties as a Christian and a human being, to provide the quality of volunteerism, support, and care deserving of the people of Hawaii. God cannot use me effectively due to the prohibitions stated in Senate Bill 1. I should not be forced to choose between condoning homosexuality and following the commandments of my God. There are people who are indifferent to homosexuality and therefore may provide the services required of the LGBT community. Just as a customer has the ability to choose which business they want to purchase goods and services, retailers and service providers, whether profit or non-profit, should be able to determine morally what they determine to be right based on ancient and long standing principles. Today's capitalist society allows the consumer the right to determine whether a business survives or fails; if a place of business decides to uphold their Biblically moral beliefs and their belief is that the LGBT lifestyle is morally reprehensible then let their success or failure be determined by the patronage of the consumer and not by a law that has condemned them without the verdict of the consumer. Some may compare the disapproval of the LGBT lifestyle to racism, but LGBT is a lifestyle and not an intrinsic characteristic of a person such as their skin color. Just the same as no person is forced to accept a religion as a lifestyle, so should no person be forced to accept the LGBT lifestyle.

In conclusion, as a Christian and a contributing member of the Hawaiian people, I vote No to Senate Bill 1. This bill disagrees with the core of my faith which is also a lifestyle. It disagrees with my rights as a citizen of not only the United States but also as a citizen of Hawaii. It also disagrees with my livelihood and my ability to make a positive impact on the community. Finally, in Christianity, Jesus Christ was condemned to death by the Israelites, but because of their traditions, they were barred from making the decision to act upon His crucifixion. The people implored the help of the Roman governor Pontius Pilate to make the decision necessary to condemn Jesus to death. Pontius Pilate refused 3 times and finally he dipped his hands in water to symbolize that the blood of Jesus, an innocent man, would be on their hands and allowed the execution to take place. In the same way, hold yourself blameless for the decisions of the people. Allow the people of Hawaii to make this

choice because this will affect generations to come and you as legislators will walk amongst the people guiltless because you gave the people their vote and their rights. As our Leaders, in accordance with 2 Timothy 4:1-2, I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, Who will judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient, convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: jeremyshima@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:09:19 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
jeremy shimabukuro	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Thank you for taking the time to look over this. I pray and oppose that this does not pass. I'm looking at the effects this will have on my future family. The different effects on the next generation. Please let the people's voice be heard.

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Cc:	pattikm@hawaii.rr.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:05:42 PM
Attachments:	SSM testimony.pages

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Patricia Chung	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

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From: Jocelyn McMahon
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Testimony In Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:48:45 PM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
414 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

October 25, 2013

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposed to SB1 Relating to Equality, simply because the current bill does not represent equality for all. In fact, the bill will deny my rights to uphold my cultural and traditional values in order to give a new set of rights to the gay and lesbian group.

I am a local born and raised resident of Hawaii, raised my family in this State, own a business, and serve as a Pastor in a local church. I am a voter in the Waikiki, Ala Moana, Kakaako district, and went on record with Rep. Tom Bower to consider the voice of the people who are simply asking for the opportunity to be heard. Never in the history of any State legislation across the nation has such a controversial issue to reverse a State Constitution been given to a small number of legislators.

SB 1 Relating to Equality will violate the religious freedom of our churches, religious groups, and non-clergy people of faith owning businesses in the wedding industry. If you are confident that your decision to pass this bill is what the people of Hawaii wants, then let the people of Hawaii vote on it. I am confident that you are not representing the majority in Hawaii.

Thank you,

Jocelyn K. McMahon
Message Media, LLC

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: jr@a-1-a.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:54:47 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
James T Yamada	Cedar Assembly of God	Oppose	Yes

Comments: My name is James T Yamada. I am speaking for my church, Cedar Assembly of God. I AM OPPOSED TO THIS BILL. Our church is an extremely diverse church, but also made up of the very poor. We are against the Senate Bill for many reasons. We believe that the redefining of marriage to allow for Same sex couples to marry will result in a continuous downward spiral of values that are critical to the formation of the family. We believe that the LGBT groups as well as groups like GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Educational Network) will utilize this new law to overwhelm the Religious rights of Christians. It is already happening in Europe, Canada, and in those States where GLSEN has been successful in changing the laws of the State. It appears that GLSEN is using the Educational System as their entry point to “retrain” the thinking of the school kids, starting at the Elementary grade level. We acknowledge that much damage has been done by society in bullying against LGBT kids, and that is wrong. But I believe that the current global strategy of the LGBT group to “retrain” the thinking and perception of the young children will do irreparable harm, in the long run. The children are being exposed to a sexual awakening at too early an age, in Europe, Canada, and the United States where the GLSEN and LGBT groups have gained control. STATISTIC BEAR THIS OUT. This control is through the bureaucracy (here defined as normal well intentioned people working within the system, in this case the Educational system). This exposure to their sexual drive increase the probability that these kids will be influenced by alcohol, drugs, and experiment with all the pleasures of the world. Education then takes a back seat for those crippled by this “enlightenment.” While I would agree that serious consideration should be given regarding the Federal tax benefits for same sex couples in committed relationships, the damage to our next generation completely outweigh the short term. I would prefer to see a delay in the special session, that a better longer term solution be found. I realize you have an extremely tough decision and believe that you all are trying to do the best for the people. Thank You for this consideration. Pastor Jimmy Yamada Cedar Assembly of God

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To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	mwlogan@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:51:41 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Marion Logan	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Members of the Legislature, As a voter and citizen in Hawaii, I want to express my gratitude for all of you who serve our state and dedicate your efforts to provide all citizens with the best laws, measures, and benefits. I acknowledge that all of you are in positions to best represent your constituency. With this in mind, I am deeply concerned with SB1 to allow gay marriage in Hawaii. First and foremost, I do not see the urgency on passing this bill in such haste. Of the 35 states where gay marriage is not legal, Hawaii is the only one requiring a special session. Is this really necessary to pass without giving the citizens enough time to view the bill, voice their concerns, and have significant time to meet with their representatives? This really bothers me because in a period of 5 days, there is not enough time to fairly hear all concerns, deliberate accordingly, and make amendments. Furthermore, we have not been provided with a rational explanation from Governor Abercrombie why this matter is so urgent that it needs a special session? Secondly, I am concerned over the social aspects of this law that exceed only providing equal marriage rights. In the near future, my child will probably be attending one of the public schools in Hawaii. As evidenced in other states that have legalized gay marriage, there is an agenda by proponents to indoctrinate students at all grade levels with their view of equality. I am a Christian and stand by the belief that it is the parents who are to distill moral values. I do not morally believe that homosexuality is something predetermined solely by genetics but is a combination of various factors. Third, this law dangerously leaves open various possibilities for litigation against religious institutions. How does the bill define who "makes a profit." this is not clearly defined. There is no clause in the law that will protect religious beliefs and practices in hiring. As a minister, I do not believe that I should have to hire someone in whom I do not believe adheres (to the best of their ability) to the standards outlined in the Bible. With that in mind, there are no protections for religious organizations who do not hire openly practicing gay married couples? In this light, I do not view this as discrimination and would not hire a heterosexual couple living together before marriage, a drug addict, alcoholic, child abuser, swindler, liar, and/or an instigator of strife. I also do not see why organizations, such as religious adoption agencies cannot refuse to adopt children to same sex couples, especially if there are other agencies that allow it. Lastly, as a member of the community, I believe that you should let the people of Hawaii vote. If

the measure proposed passes in a vote, then by all means proceed in legalizing. Informal polls and surveys do not adequately support the notion that the majority of the population in Hawaii supports the measure. Please let the people decide. Again, I want to thank you for your time here today. Please understand that I respect and care for the GLBT Community. Although we have different ideologies, I do not wish to demean, disrespect, or discriminate them. In the same way they do not want me to impose my beliefs, I do not deem it necessary for them to impose their viewpoints on me by passing laws that will affect the general public. There is NO entity that has defined gay marriage as a civil right. As a state, why can't we lobby the federal government to recognize Hawaii's already legalized civil unions? Aloha, Marion Logan

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To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	charischinen@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:43:41 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Charis Logan	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I would like to respectfully oppose this bill. As I have read over the bill, I have found a few areas that concern me and my family. Under section 572-B, is says that all gender specific terminology shall be construed in a gender-neutral manner and shall apply to all sources of law. This alarms me because it is here that I see that this bill will now affect our education system. Not only will it change all language to be gender-neutral, I believe that it will have to completely change all educational curriculum. I also believe that it won't just stop with the language being changed but will evolve to mean that gender is not defined by genitalia but by preferences. I have worked with preschool and early elementary age students and know how impressionable children are at that age. I believe that all the ambiguity will only cause more confusion and may even cause unnecessary confusion. There are things as a parent that I would like to reserve the right to not have my child learn certain things in school, and would rather discuss with my child at home. The other issue in the bill that alarmed me was in section 572C-2. I firmly believe that marriage is a sacrament of the church and is between one man and one woman. I was appalled to read that the "Legislature acknowledges that there are many individuals who have significant personal, emotional, and economic relationships with another individual yet are prohibited by legal restrictions from marrying." The example given was a widowed (which earlier was deemed as a gender specific word) mother and her unmarried son. I do not believe that opening this up is detrimental to the good of our society. I do not believe that this is the best solution to areas of concern, whether economic or personal. I respectfully ask you to consider these concerns as you make your decision. I am not against giving rights to same sex couples, but would ask that we instead amend civil unions to include federal rights. Thank you very much.

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Cc: pshleung@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:11:51 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Peter S. Leung	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I personally prefer individual citizens of the State of Hawaii to vote for their own. In addition, I vote against the bill to legalize same sex marriage. I think people should have their own rights to make such decision, when it has a great harm on future generation. Thank you very much!

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Cc: doubled13@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:51:09 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
David Davis	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: My name is David Davis , and i come to you as a concerned citizen. I am completely opposed to Same Sex marriage as i believe marriage is between a man and woman. I also feel the moral fiber of our communities here in Hawaii nei will be jeopardized if we do not define marriage between man and woman.

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To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: darryl.yim@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:14:14 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Darryl Yim	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Chairman Hee and Judiciary and Labor Committee, Please protect traditional marriage and centuries of Hawaii's culture and traditions by voting "NO" on this Marriage Equality Bill. Mahalo, Darryl Yim

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Cc: craftiger@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:13:01 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Gerri Otaguro	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Chairman Hee and Judiciary and Labor Committee, Please vote NO on this bill and allow more discussion and debate on this issue by allowing this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Rushing it through will make a mockery of our Democratic Process that our forefathers gave their lives to establish and protect. Mahalo, Gerri Otaguro

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To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: rkkurata@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:11:41 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Randall Kurata	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Chairman Hee and Judiciary and Labor Committee, Please protect traditional marriage and centuries of Hawaii's culture and traditions by voting "NO" on this Marriage Equality Bill. Mahalo, Randall Kurata

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: kwakyu@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:10:43 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kathy Kurata	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Chairman Hee and Judiciary and Labor Committee, Please vote NO on this bill and allow more discussion and debate on this issue by allowing this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Rushing it through will make a mockery of our Democratic Process that our forefathers gave their lives to establish and protect. Mahalo, Kathy Kurata

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Cc: gpshima@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:09:32 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Glenn Shimabukuro	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Chairman Hee and Judiciary and Labor Committee, Please protect traditional marriage and centuries of Hawaii's culture and traditions by voting "NO" on this Marriage Equality Bill. Mahalo, Glenn Shimabukuro

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Cc: sandyshimabukuro@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:08:20 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Sandy Shimabukuro	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Chairman Hee and Judiciary and Labor Committee, Please vote NO on this bill and allow more discussion and debate on this issue by allowing this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Rushing it through will make a mockery of our Democratic Process that our forefathers gave their lives to establish and protect. Mahalo, Sandy Shimabukuro

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To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: erinko46@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:07:16 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Erin Chinen	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Chairman Hee and Judiciary and Labor Committee, Please protect traditional marriage and centuries of Hawaii's culture and traditions by voting "NO" on this Marriage Equality Bill. Mahalo, Erin Chinen

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To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: dchinen@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:06:03 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Daniel Chinen	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Chairman Hee and Judiciary and Labor Committee, Please vote NO on this bill and allow more discussion and debate on this issue by allowing this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Rushing it through will make a mockery of our Democratic Process that our forefathers gave their lives to establish and protect. Mahalo, Daniel Chinen

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Cc: dmyoshida@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:04:50 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Dona Yoshida	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Chairman Hee and Judiciary and Labor Committee, Please vote NO on this bill and allow more discussion and debate on this issue by allowing this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Rushing it through will make a mockery of our Democratic Process that our forefathers gave their lives to establish and protect. Mahalo, Dona Yoshida

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To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: ronyosh@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:03:39 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Ron Yoshida	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Chairman Hee and Judiciary and Labor Committee, Please vote NO on this bill and allow more discussion and debate on this issue by allowing this bill to be deliberated in the regular legislative session which is only 2 months away. Rushing it through will make a mockery of our Democratic Process that our forefathers gave their lives to establish and protect. Mahalo, Ron Yoshida

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Testimony in Support of SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

I am a lifelong resident of Hawaii. I was born in Hilo, raised in Honolulu, graduated from McKinley High School, earned all of my degrees in psychology (BA, MA, PhD) from UH-Manoa, and returned to Hilo to serve on the faculty at UH-Hilo for 30+ years. My training and knowledge in psychology informs me that, except for their sexual orientation, homosexual people are no different from heterosexual people. My ethnic ancestry informs me that discrimination against any minority can occur as it did during WWII when the constitutional rights of Japanese Americans were violated. My Hawaii identity informs me that equal rights must be extended to all people in the interest of love, fairness, and justice, with special attention to minorities whose rights can be easily trampled by the majority. Since getting married in our state is a basic right of any eligible adult, its denial to one group is discriminatory and indefensible. Moreover, the time is right for the legislature to do the right thing that it failed to do when it was given the authority by the 1998 constitutional amendment ("*The legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples.")*. That is, the right thing to do then was for the legislature to not exercise that power and thus, allow the Hawaii Supreme Court ruling to stand, i.e., that the state failed to show "compelling state interests" in denying marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The right thing now is to grant marital rights to same-sex couples that are equal to those already held by opposite-sex couples.

I understand most of the opposition to this marriage equality bill comes from those who believe in biblical teachings about homosexuality. I respect their religious beliefs, but they are not entitled to impose those beliefs on the rest of us who may not agree with them. The bill thus correctly contains special provisions that protect the rights of churches and their congregations to practice their beliefs without penalty, while providing equal marital rights to a discriminated minority. I think even those concessions may not satisfy religious extremists and thus, you'll face a conflict between opposing views. In this situation, may I suggest considering the quote below from David G. Myers, a devout Christian heterosexual who happens to be a psychology professor with expert knowledge about homosexuality. It comes from a book (What God Has Joined Together: The Christian Case for Gay Marriage) co-authored by a woman, Letha Dawson Scanzoni, who also happens to be a Christian heterosexual:

"When torn between judgment and grace, let us err on the side of grace.
When torn between self-certain conviction and uncertain humility, let us err on the side of humility.
When torn between contempt and love, let us err on the side of love.
In so doing, we may be more faithful disciples of the one who embodied grace, humility, and love."
--David G. Myers, Psychologist, Professor, Christian

Offered in the Spirit of Aloha-
William R. Higa, Ph.D.
Hilo, Hawaii

HAWAII FAMILY ADVOCATES
Suite 1201 Fort Street Tower
745 Fort Street Mall
Honolulu, HI 96813

October 26, 2013

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALRIGHTS**

BOARD DIRECTORS

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Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Jim Hochberg and I have been a civil rights attorney in Honolulu for decades and I am currently the president of Hawaii Family Advocates, a C4 organization which is the chair of the Coalition To Let The People Decide On Marriage. My testimony strongly opposes passage of SB1 or any other bill that would redefine marriage from the unique union of one man and one woman. As Section 8 of SB1 reveals on page 12, in 2011 this same legislature passed Act 1 creating civil unions which contains a legislative finding that "the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage as a unique social institution based upon the committed union of one man and one woman." And that "marriage should be subject to restrictions such as prohibiting respective parties to a valid marriage contract . . " This 2011 reflection of the 1998 constitutional amendment overwhelmingly voted for 70% of the population is being deleted from our statutes in SB1. The legislature cannot know whether the people of Hawaii changed their desire to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples unless the legislature puts the question to a vote by the people.

The content of SB1 is utterly unconstitutional for many reasons, and in addition to that, it seeks to satisfy adults at the expense of the children that may be in these same-sex households. Changing the parentage assumptions to be the same regardless of the gender of the married couple is absurd. A lesbian spouse of a child's mother cannot be the child's father. Ever. In addition, for the native Hawaiian community this causes additional problems, but I will allow them to raise the concerns in detail. The special divorce provision for homosexual couples will cause a drain on the tax base of the state, burden the tax payers of the state, and increase the cost of the family court with the elimination of the requirements that divorcing spouses must be domiciled and physically present in the state for the family court to have jurisdiction over the divorce.

SB1 unconstitutionally exposes people of faith that believe that homosexuality is not an alternative lifestyle, but one that has extremely negative consequences for those that support it. The proponents of same sex unions, across the country and in western Europe bring discrimination complaints against these people of faith for declining to participate in celebrations of same sex unions based on their consciences prohibit them from participating. There are many industries involved in wedding, including, planners, florists, bakers, tailors, photographers and

make-up artists. All of them use their creative talents to assist with the presentation of the event. Each of these individuals possesses from the United States Constitution, the right of conscience that cannot be infringed by the State of Hawaii. Based on SB1, it appears the legislator who introduced the bill believes that rights of conscience only belong to church organizations, but not to the members who have these jobs and sit in the pews. The fact is that the religious organizations benefit from the individual rights of conscience because the members imbue the religious organization with the individual's corporate conscience protection rights. SB1 is woefully deficient in this regard. Under Hawai'i law, every photographer, baker, florist, and printer that serves weddings will have to also serve same-sex weddings, even if the owner has a sincerely held religious belief that same-sex marriage is wrong and that it is wrong for him or her to endorse or promote one. It is not only clergy and churches that have First Amendment rights; everyday citizens do, too. When the government forces someone to act in a way that goes against his or her sincerely held religious beliefs that compulsion violates the First Amendment.

Consider the case of Elaine Huguenin, the owner of Elaine Photography in New Mexico. That state does not recognize same-sex marriage, but it has a law against discrimination that, like Hawai'i's, forbids sexual orientation discrimination and does not provide a religious exemption. Elaine's business regularly photographed weddings. She was asked by a same-sex couple to photograph their commitment ceremony, which they viewed as being the same as a wedding. Elaine, though, believes that the Bible teaches that marriage is only the union of a man and a woman and that all other intimate relationships are immoral. She also believes that it would be wrong for her to participate in and promote a same-sex marriage by taking pictures that presented the marriage in a positive light. Elaine would have gladly provided other photography services for people who identified as homosexual. For instance, she would have done a portrait, or photographed a birthday party or a graduation celebration. But she could not in good conscience photograph a same-sex wedding. She believed doing so would be displeasing to God. So Elaine declined, and the same-sex couple found another photographer at the same price who, they later admitted, did a great job for them.

But they filed a discrimination complaint against Elaine anyway, even though they were happy with the photographer they selected, and there were plenty of photographers who wanted to photograph their ceremony. Elaine was then hauled before a human rights commission, and then into court. And the courts ruled that Elaine discriminated, because the law does not contain a specific exemption for people to decline to participate in same-sex weddings for religious reasons.

Hawai'i's nondiscrimination law is the same as New Mexico's in every important respect. It bans discrimination because of sexual orientation and it does not provide an exemption for business owners who have religious objections to participating in, or promoting, a same-sex ceremony. To provide adequate religious protections, the Bill should explicitly state that no person or business shall be required to provide services for same-sex weddings if doing so would violate their faith. That is what the First Amendment requires. But without that protection, people of faith in the wedding-services industry are vulnerable and at risk. The federal appeals court ruled in June, 2013, that businesses do in fact religious liberty rights that protect the business from compulsion to

HAWAII FAMILY ADVOCATES
Suite 1201 Fort Street Tower
745 Fort Street Mall
Honolulu, HI 96813

violate the sincerely held religious beliefs of the owners. See the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals opinion in the Hobby Lobby case.

While SB1 protects religious clergy from liability for refusing to solemnize a same sex marriage, SB1 offers no protection to non-clergy members of the public that are also authorized by the state to solemnize marriages, such as judges and others so licensed. These non-clergy authorized solemnizers are absolutely unprotected. To the extent such a person is also a person with sincerely held religious beliefs that lead that person to refuse to solemnize a same sex marriage, the person would be unprotected by this statute.

SB1 also fails to adequately protect churches and other religious organizations from liability for declining requests to use church properties for same sex celebrations. In order to qualify for the protection, a church must "not make its facilities or grounds available to the general public for solemnization of any marriage celebration for a profit." The State of Hawaii, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs registers organizations that are for profit as either partnerships, limited liability companies or for- profit corporations. All charities (including churches) are registered as non profit corporations. Since all churches must be non-profit corporations under state law to received real estate tax exemptions, no church could have a "profit". This qualifier then is quite odd and looks like the registration of the church corporation is not the deciding factor. The Bill then states the negative that "accepting donations from the public, providing religious services to the public, or otherwise permitting the pubic to enter the religious organization's premises" does not constitute "for a profit". What exactly does that phrase mean? How will the Civil Rights Commission determine whether the church qualifies? Will a financial audit of the church be necessary? Bill, § 572-F.

The language is simply not clear. We do not know. It will ultimately be sorted out by the courts. And that leaves churches vulnerable and at risk. Marriage is a church sacrament, something the First Amendment protects from government interference. The government has absolutely no business ordering the church to conform its sacrament to the state's desire in order to qualify for the protections under this statute.

Churches will be forced to rent their properties for same-sex weddings. According to the Executive Director of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, in an October 17, 2013 Response to Inquiries, the "threshold analysis is similar to the determination of whether a facility is a private club or a place of public accommodation." If the religious organization offers the use of the facility to the general public as customers, clients or visitors, the HCRC has already opined in writing that it will be considered a place of public accommodation. Any church that falls under that reading by the HCRC will be required to allow same-sex couples to host their weddings on its properties.

Many churches offer other organizations the use of the church buildings and property that are consistent with the mission and ministry of the church. The Boy Scouts, 12 step recovery programs, athletic teams and others, often meet in churches. What the Executive

Director seems to not understand is that religious organizations cannot be subject to the public accommodations law because it prohibits discrimination on the basis of, among other things, religion. Every religion discriminates on that basis.

The HCRC seems to believe that if a religious organization allows its facilities to be used for community meetings or rents space on a contract basis to a provider it would result in that church being deemed a public accommodation and liable to punishment for violating the non-discrimination provisions of the Public Accommodations law. According to the HCRC, such a church will be required to allow same-sex couples to marry there or be subject to liability for claims for refusing a same sex marriage.

If Hawai'i passes this Bill as written, it will be among the worst states for protecting religious freedom. The other state laws that have worse religious exemption than the proposed bills, should not be compared to Hawaii at this time. Those state legislatures negotiated the religious exemption AFTER a court or vote had already mandated same sex marriage. Unlike Hawaii at this time, the negotiating power of the proponents and opponents of the religious exemption were not equal because whether to have same sex marriage or not was not part of the negotiations. The last three states to negotiate the religious exemption were simultaneously negotiating whether or not to allow same sex marriage. Under equal bargaining power, the religious exemptions in those three states are the most favorable to people of faith and their organizations.

But it really does not matter what other states have chosen to do. What matters is what Hawai'i chooses to do. And Hawai'i must decide: does it want to be a state where religious freedom is trampled, or a state where it is protected? This Bill, as written, tramples the religious freedom of churches, religious organizations, religious non-clergy licensed solemnizers and people of faith who own businesses in the wedding-industry. Hawai'i should protect religious freedom, not trample it.

Sincerely,

JAMES HOCHBERG

JH/lz

Addressing the Marriage Equality Bill:
Richard T. Bair and Mililani Bair strongly oppose this bill on the basis that:

1) Same sex marriage should not be passed in a special session because:
a. A five-six day session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time.
b. No amendments can be made to legislation. As a result, true democracy is made a mockery of.
c. Hawaii is the only State rushing into special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision. If the need was truly dire, then why haven't the other 34 states that do not permit same-sex marriage done so?
d. A "yes" vote during special session is a "no" vote to democracy because the voice of the people is NOT heard in a five-six day special session, especially if that voice is "amend the bill".
e. The so-called religious exemption language is rendered invalid because of the public accommodation carve out.
f. The people believed they voted on this issue in 1998.

We strongly urge Legislators to respect fundamental democratic principles as:

1) The People believed they addressed the issue in 1998 and should be the ones consulted again.
2) Marriage is not a civil right, and no court, including the Supreme Court, has ever said that it is.
3) A Constitutional amendment would better address same-sex marriage and allow for ample public input.

As Hawaii State residents and voters we would like to add our voices to the many who have strongly spoken out and respectfully ask that our rights as voters we heard. This issue is so volatile that is can split the unity of our State and families within these Islands. In the Spirit of Aloha we add our voices and ask that this bill be killed and this Special Session ended.

Mahalo for hearing the people of Hawaii,

Richard T. Bair
Mililani Bair
PO Box 654
Keaau, Hawaii 96749

Sprint 09:08 AM

Cancel **Testimony in Op...** Send

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB1

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the pe support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please upho principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. Th people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousands of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Please also remember that before the U.S. illegally overthrew our Beloved Queen Lili'uokalani, our 'āina & Kingdom were establis the Word of ke Akua (God) & His pono ways. Our ali'i chose to follow & believe in Him & in fact dedicated our Kingdom to ke Akua (Kamehameha III, Kauikeaouli at his coronation & written later in his constitution that no law shall stand in Hawai'i in variance to th Word of God.

Please take into careful consideration the intemt & words of our ali'i & kūpuna & our sincere pleas for a fair process!
May ke Akua lead you forward in what is just & pono for all of Hawai'i & her people! Ua mau ke 'ea o ka 'āina i ka pono! (And plz reservation who this mouo came from & how it came forth).

Mahalo NUI a me ke aloha,

Amber Sitch

Kailua, HI 96734

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly OPPOSE the bill #SB1 and believe the people of Hawaii should be allowed to vote regarding the issue. I believe in traditional marriage and feel that this bill does not adequately protect MY rights and beliefs.

In Hawaii, we already voted regarding this issue. Does our vote as a people mean nothing?!

Sincerely,

Celeste Tefan

<u>For the Senate hearing</u>: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any same-sex marriage issue.

Same-sex marriage is not a civil right. No court (including the United States Supreme Court) has ever said that same-sex marriage is civil right. In 2002, the **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** rejected the complaint that New Zealand banned same-sex marriage violating civil right.

It is my opinion that the issue of same-sex marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same-sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people.

Please let the people decide on marriage.

October 28, 2013, 10:30a

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

Redefining marriage not only affects the estimated 5% of Hawai'i residents who identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian, but will change society forever for the other 95% of Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE**!

If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that **sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon**. Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
Dawnelle Forsythe
1581 Kaunala Way, Hilo, HI 96720

Dear honored legislators,
My name is Daniel Chinen, and am a proud born and raised in Hawaii resident. I am also a registered voter. I am in opposition to SB1. I must admit that I am not the type of person to be heavily involved in politics. However, as of late due to media and news alerts with regards to same sex marriage, I felt it important to voice my stance on same sex marriage.
I do not feel that the special session and SB1 are right due to the following reasons:
1. Special Sessions, to my understanding, have only been used for emergency instances i.e. response to 9-11 attack on our nation's soil and the super ferry.
2. Although many say that there's been more than enough discussion about same sex marriage, therefore it is time for our state to pass it into law. I would have to disagree on the grounds that there has been very little talk about it. There has been talk about civil unions in the past, as well as defining what marriage is back to 1998. However, there hasn't been well thought out discussions on the ramifications of same sex marriage.
3. the other 33 states in our nation are not addressing same sex marriage. For the 13 other states/cities that have passed same sex marriage, it was conducted during general sessions to give the bill the proper amendments within it's proper time.

Given the preceding statements. I respectfully ask you to reconsider passing SB1.
Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Daniel Chinen

I wish to express my opposition to the proposed legislation known as the Hawaii Marriage Equity Bill. I am opposed to SB1 for three reasons. First, the bill redefines marriage. Second, passing this law will contribute to the further weakening of the family infrastructure, the most important unit and foundation of our society. Third, this legislation fails to protect the religious liberty of those who are opposed to same sex marriage.

We do not have the right to redefine marriage, yet that is exactly what Hawaii Marriage Equity Bill proposes to do. The organization of the family, specifically the union of a man and a woman, has been in place for millennia. Senate Bill 1 would drastically change the meaning of marriage overnight. Marriage has been the foundation for society since the dawn of mankind. To alter this time tested institution for the convenience of a few without considering the long-term consequences is short-sighted and reckless.

We need to be doing everything we can to support the family, not undermine it. As a teacher for the Windward School District with the Hawaii Department of Education I am privileged to work with the wonderful youth of this beautiful state. I am sure you are already aware of the many difficulties facing our students. I see them confronted with disabilities and special needs, negative peer pressure and bullying, poverty, racism, and neglect, to name a few. With such daunting challenges facing youngsters on a daily basis I know everybody can agree that today's youth need as much love, support, and guidance as we can offer. Everyday I see countless teachers, coaches, counselors and other adults doing everything they can for students. I am deeply grateful for the sacrifice, commitment, and contributions of these adults. Nevertheless, no individual or institution can hope to help today's youth as effectively and significantly as can the family. The stability and support found within the family unit is essential to the development and well-being of children. We must do everything we can to strengthen and defend the family. Therein lays the key to helping our youth achieve the success and happiness they deserve. Passing the Hawaii Marriage Equity Bill will open the door to a whole new onslaught of detrimental influences on young people, who are already beset on all sides by the corrosive and confusing influences of drugs, pornography, promiscuity, and divorce. It will only further diminish their chances at finding success and fulfillment.

Like the Governor’s original bill, the new Senate bill fails to protect religious liberty. It does not properly protect religious institutions. Many churches have nonprofit organizations to help them carry out their religious missions, such as religious schools and colleges like BYU-Hawaii. The Senate bill covers only “religious organizations.” Unlike protections in other states, it does not protect these other important institutions that are vital to churches. The Senate bill protects churches from having to host same-sex marriage ceremonies on their religious properties or in their places of worship, such as an LDS meetinghouse. That is important, but not good enough. Unlike protections in other states, the Senate bill does not protect churches from also having to host same-sex wedding receptions and other related celebrations, or from having to provide other goods and services in connection with same-sex marriages, like marriage counseling. Many churches charge fees for the use of their chapels for weddings so they can use the additional money to support important religious activities, such as their youth ministry or program to feed the hungry. The Senate bill excludes protections for churches that do so.

The bill does not protect individuals from being forced to support same-sex marriage. The Senate bill would force individuals and family businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs: it does not protect photographers and others (whether as individuals or small family businesses) from being forced to directly assist in celebrating same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs. In fact, the bill has no protections for individuals or small family businesses, even if the business is operated according to religious principles. The Senate bill does not protect county clerks and other government employees from having to perform same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs, even when other government employees are available to do so at no inconvenience to the same-sex couple. Government employees who cannot perform such marriages because of their religious beliefs will likely be fired. The Senate bill provides no protections for the right of religious parents to remove their children from public school classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of marriage between a man and a woman.

I am strongly opposed to the Hawaii Marriage Equity Bill. This proposed legislation fails to protect religious liberty, adds to the detrimental influences challenging our youth, and unwisely attempts to redefine marriage. If this legislation is passed, it will negatively affect our families and our community.

Marcus Dunn

8/26/13

My name is Marcus Dunn. I am a student at Mililani High. I support the measure of SB1. I believe that homosexual couples should receive the same rights of marriage granted to heterosexual couples. The Constitution does not discriminate, so the right to pursue happiness applies to everyone, not just heterosexuals. SB 1 also acknowledges the freedom of religion and the separation of church and state. Any organization that does not support same sex marriage is not required to marry a homosexual couple, as long as the organization is non-profit. I see this as a compromise as while it limits locations of where homosexuals can get married, religious organizations can still hold on to their principles.

I myself am not homosexual. The true effect of this law would not affect me personally in a significant way, but it does not change my opinion.

EQUALITY HAWAI'I

Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m. • Capitol Auditorium

Testifying in Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Judicary & Labor Commitee:

Equality Hawaii, the state's largest family of LGBT advocacy and education organizations, stands strongly in support of SB1, a bill extending marriage equality to loving, committed couples throughout the state.

This bill is more than just legislation. It represents the culmination of more than 20 years of discussion in Hawaii, marking an opportunity to end of decades of discrimination endured by same-sex couples, replacing the discrimination with the hopes, dreams and love offered by the freedom to marry.

It is time for marriage equality. From emancipation to women's suffrage and the Civil Rights Act, every generation has a defining, civil rights moment in history where how we treated each other as human beings moved forward to a kinder, just place for human kind. Marriage equality is this generation's defining moment ... a time when the best concepts of understanding, aloha and how we treat each other come forward to move us all to a kinder, more just, more human place as a society.

It is time for marriage equality. Recent polls by QMark and local media organizations reflect that a majority of Hawaii residents support allowing same-sex, loving, committed couples to share in the dream of entering into a lifetime promise to protect, cherish and honor each other until death due them part. This bill does not redefine or change marriage. It simply extends this time-honored display of love to people who have been denied this fundamental right for too long.

It is time for marriage equality as an issue of faith. A growing number of faith leaders have endorsed marriage equality and ask that you respect their religious freedom to perform these loving unions. We have heard about the religious freedom of those against marriage equality, but those same voices never talk about the restrictions current law places on the faiths that support the freedom to marry.

It is time for marriage equality as good business. Hawaii has made destination weddings an industry and economic studies by University of Hawaii economists show that each day without marriage equality, Hawaii loses more than $10.2 million a year and $200,000 a day in tourism revenue ... money our economy desperately needs in these turbulent times.

post office box 11444 ✿ honolulu, hi 96828 ✿ www.equalityhawaii.org

It is time for marriage equality so that couples like two of our members, a couple that has been together for more than 30 years, do not have to fly to California to ensure that they can provide each other with all the rights and benefits the federal government offers to married couples. Without marriage equality, we are sending a message to Hawaii residents that - for same-sex couples - only those with the economic means to fly to the mainland are deserving of their full federal rights.

It is time for marriage equality so that members like Kim do not have to get permission for funeral services for her partner after a seven-year battle with cancer. Or members like Tom, who has terminal prostate cancer and is too ill to travel to realize a dying wish to finally marry the man that stood by him in sickness and health.

It is time for marriage equality so that members like Valerie, an expectant mother, can honor her and her parents' wishes that their grandchild is born into a "real" family with parents whose marriage is recognized by their home state, not just Canada.

It is time for marriage equality so that members like Todd and Gus, Jeff and Darin, Joshua and Jonathan, Kimi and Diane and Paul that are raising healthy, well-adjusted children do not have to explain to their kids why the people waving the signs do not believe they are a family and do not want their mommies and daddies to be married.

It is time for marriage equality so that the next generation of gay and lesbian youth do not endure the psychological and self-esteem damage of growing up believing that their love is "second class" and undeserving of the ultimate display of love.

It is time for marriage equality as an unfilled promise. Hawaii launched the marriage equality movement more than 20 years ago. Instead of continuing our state's tradition of setting the standard for living aloha in a paradise for equality and inclusion, we let 14 states and 16 nations on five continents pass us by. It is time for Hawaii to complete this circle and grant the freedom to marry to all loving, committed couples in our state.

Again, we stand in strong support of this bill. The time has come for this committee, this legislature and this state to stand on the right side of history and claim its proper place as a leader in civil rights, social justice and aloha.

Please support this bill with your "yes" vote.

Mahalo,
Josh Frost, Co-Chair, Equality Hawaii
Scott Larimer, Co-Chair, Equality Hawaii
Travis Knott, Co-Chair, Equality Hawaii Foundation
Gigi Lee, Co-Chair, Equality Hawaii Foundation
Jacce Mikulanec, Co-Chair, Equality Hawaii Action Fund
Donald L. Bentz, Executive Director

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am
Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:
I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any same-sex marriage issue.

Same-sex marriage is not a civil right. On 30 November 1998, two couples involved in Quilter v Attorney-General sued New Zealand before the United Nations Human Rights Committee claiming that the country's ban on same-sex marriage violated the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Committee rejected the case on 17 July 2002 and commented that 'reading of article 23, paragraph 2, is consistent with the travaux préparatoires of the Covenant. Article 23 was drawn directly from article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides, in the only gender-specific reference in the Declaration, to the right of "**[m]en and women … to marry**". The travaux préparatoires of article 23 also contain repeated references to "**husband and wife**". Such an interpretation is also confirmed by respected academic commentary, and by decisions of the European Court of Human Rights which have repeatedly found that the equivalent provision of the European Convention does not extend to homosexual couples.' No court (including the United States Supreme Court) has ever said that same-sex marriage is civil right.

Let the People Decide on Marriage. It is my opinion that the issue of same-sex marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same-sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people.

Sincerely,
Kristy Yip

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am
Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Clayton Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing legalizing same sex marriage because of my heartfelt concern and compassion for the future of Hawaii. Legalizing same sex marriage will have huge efforts to my community, my children, and to my traditional family life. I believe that children are best raised in a traditional family environment to thrive and to grow.

In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom. It violates our freedom to believe and exercise our belief. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill in this Special Session. Let the people of Hawaii to decide on this issue which is so important to us!

Sincerely,

Andrew Tong

October 27, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

Redefining marriage not only affects the estimated 5% of Hawai'i residents who identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian, but will change society forever for the other 95% of Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE**!

If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that **sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon**. Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
Katie Benioni
P.O. Box 171
Kamuela, HI 96743

I am in opposition to the proposed bill SB1.

It should in no way infringe on the 1st amendment.

I cannot see any benefit in bringing these teachings into our school & to our children.

In fact choosing to bring these teachings to our children in school seems in no way beneficial to their education, it is views that the government is trying to brainwash our children with.

Please vote no on the bill SB1 – or let us – the people of Hawaii vote on this bill ourselves.

Mahalo,

Camille Lonokapu

I oppose S.B. No. 1, known as the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Same-sex marriage should not be passed in a special session because:

- *A five day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time, and no amendments can be made to legislation. As a result, true democracy is made a mockery of.*
- *A 'yes' vote during the special session is a 'no' vote to democracy because the voice of the people is NOT heard in a five day special session, especially if that voice is 'amend the bill.'*
- *The so-called religious exemption language is rendered invalid because of the public accommodations carved out.*
- *The people believed they voted on this issue in 1998 - if the polls show that Hawaii favors same-sex marriage, why not let the people vote?*

Legislators must respect fundamental democratic principles:

- *The people believed they addressed the issue in 1998, and should be the ones consulted again.*
- *Marriage is NOT a civil right, and no court (including the Supreme Court) has ever said that it is.*
- *A constitutional amendment would better address same-sex marriage and allow for ample public input.*

It is my belief that the governor's current bill will NOT protect church leaders' and individual rights.

In the article entitled, Hawaii governor calling special session of legislature on Oct. 28 to pass "gay marriage", the governor is asked by the legislator:

> "[The legislator] asked the Governor, "Based on your reasoning that Same-Sex Marriage is a civil right, then how can you disenfranchise a bi-sexual from marrying the people he/she loves?"
>
> His response, "I fully expect a lawsuit to be filed in about a year."

How can the governor respond to such a question like that? It shouldn't come down to a lawsuit, there should be an answer to this question because once this bill, S.B. No.1 is passed, it will boil down other types of relationships out there that want to be married. If we pass this bill, it'll only seem ethical and fair to pass another bill to allow bi-sexuals to marry. It's just a domino effect that will undefine the reasons for marriage. And the message we pass to our children will entirely be corrupt.

THIS BILL, S.B. No. 1, **SHOULD NOT** BE PASSED

I OPPOSE SENATE BILL #1 FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. SENATE BILL #1 RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION WILL NOT PROHIBIT –AND THEREFORE WILL RESULT IN THE FOLLOWING OCCURRING IN HAWAII:

1) Indoctrination of children in schools re: same sex relationships in school, denial of parental rights to opt children out of such programs (MA)

2) Christian charities force to close rather than do same sex adoptions (MA)

3) Complaints filed against churches when denied use of facilities to celebrate same sex unions (HI and other states). Some churches may close or suffer financially, rather than violate their religious beliefs.

4) Fining many Christian business people who refuse to provide services for same sex unions/marriages (NM/IOWA) or firing/boycotting those who speak out (MA)

5) The Hawaii Civil Rights Commission has already announced a willingness and plan to Impose the Public Accommodations Law on Churches.

B) SENATE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BILL # 1 WILL LEAD UNDOUBTEDLY TO MANY ALREADY KNOWN CHANGES TO HAWAII SOCIETY IN THE FUTURE, LIKE THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES:

1) LESSONS FROM CANADA… http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/same-sex-marriage-ten-years-on-lessons-from-canada/ http://www.peacehamilton.com/problem.php
2) THE MASSACHUSETTS EXPERIENCE www.massresistance.org/docs/marriage/effects_of_ssm_2012/SSM_Mass_2012.pdf

One can be tolerant and love their neighbor and still be against this same-sex marriage law proposal which clearly violates religious freedom and is itself intolerant to others' freedom of expression and beliefs.

Aloha

Anson Rego
Waianae Attorney

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marriage because Same Sex Marriage violates Chinese Tradition.

American Chinese are very serious about family. We tell the youth that taking care the elderlies in the family is their duty. We finance businesses through family. We borrow money to buy properties through family. We obtain the best education through family.

We know from our hearts that we need love from father and mother, so we apply the same to others. Our children need love from their father and mother as we do.

Same Sex Marriage bill is going to destroy Chinese tradition. We want our local boys and girls know that rearing family biologically is the best. We want to give the best to our future.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am requesting that you would allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people by allowing this bill to go through this special session. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask that you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to having a decision made on a most contentious social issue in our history in only five days and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

Like many other bills that go through a process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills, I am asking that this bill will given the same opportunity as well. Please serve Hawaii well by voting in opposition of this bill in order that democracy may prevail.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jan Tetsutani
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

Noe Foster
7092-26 Hawaii Kai Drive
Honolulu. Hawaii 96825

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it denies me and all others, protected constitutional rights in at least three significant instances. First, both the U.S. Constitution and our Hawaii Constitution guarantee freedom of religion to all individuals. Both strictly prohibit the enactment of laws that prevent citizens from exercising their religious beliefs. S.B. 1 is deficient. It impairs the religious liberties of individuals and businesses by imposing a law that is in direct contradiction to core religious doctrines, beliefs and practices relating to marriage, parenting and family life.

Second, in 1998 Hawaii voters directed the legislature to amend the Hawaii Constitution to exclusively reserve marriage to one man and one woman. Section 25 of our Hawaii Constitution reads, "The legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples." To reserve, means to set aside something or to distinguish something from everything else. Like the other 285,383 Hawaii voters in 1998, I entrusted Hawaii legislators with limited authority to do one action – reserve marriage as a union between one man and one woman. I did not give lawmakers ultimate authority to define marriage, only to execute the will of the people by reserving marriage to opposite-sex couples.

Third, S.B. 1, includes provisions of parentage presumptions based on marriage for same-sex couples that would transfer Native Hawaiian ethnicity claims to Non-Native Hawaiian individuals.

In S.B. 1, section 572 C – Right of Parents, it reads, "Parentage rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities based on marriage shall be the same for all married spouses regardless of the gender of the spouses. These rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities shall include paternity, maternity and parentage presumptions based on marriage."

In every instance in a same-sex marriage, at least one of the partners is not the biological parent of the child. At a minimum, in a same-sex marriage, at least three individuals are involved. However, as a consequence of parentage presumptions applied as described in S.B. 1, section 572 C, the benefits reserved for Native Hawaiians are at risk of automatic transfer to Non-Native Hawaiian children.

In the preamble of our Hawaii Constitution it states, "We, reserve the right to control our destiny, to nurture the integrity of our people and culture, and to preserve the quality of life that we desire." To achieve this vision, we desperately need leaders who have the moral courage and intelligence to reject laws like S.B. 1. The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 is unconstitutional. Please reject it and vote NO on S.B. 1.

Thank you for your courageous leadership.

Respectfully,

Noe Foster
Hawaii Voter

To The Honorable State Senators Clayton Hee and Maile S. L. Shimabukuro,

I strongly urge the Senate not to approve the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 and respect the democratic process. I submit this question, how many residents support legalizing same-sex marriage in Hawaii? Since the approval of Civil Unions in 2011, over 900+ residents were approved a civil union license. For such an important and sensitive topic as this, has our elected officials reached-out or engaged it's voters on this topic? Why is this Act being presented in a five-day special session?

Per our state preamble, has our legislators sought for Divine guidance for this major issue? Our motto declares, "The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness". If we do what's morally right then we will continue to have life and peace in our State. You are our elected officials and we its citizen rely on you for proper representation. John C. Maxwell author of The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership foreword states, "Everything rises or falls on the decision and actions of our leadership". If the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 is passed, as leaders are you prepared for its affect?

Next, this Act will violate the Clauses of my 1st Amendment rights. If my Christian beliefs teaches me that same-sex marriage is wrong and it's expressed in a loving and peaceful manner will my government protect me from opposition? Marriage was instituted by our Devine Creator. Having a heterosexual marriage establishes and fosters a man's and woman's identity and purpose in life. If H.B. No 2569 is incorporated in the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act, it will create a larger separation between the community, church, and government. Churches and non-profit organizations are placed in the community to provide spiritual and physical needs. Churches should not be giving ultimatums or stipulations on the solemnization of marriages by our government.

Lastly, I urge our lawmakers to look at the outcome of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. Their public schools have enforced immoral curriculums on elementary, middle, and high students. And parents no longer have any protection from their state to shield their children from taught homosexual-related subjects. In fact federal judges have ruled that the schools now have a DUTY to portray homosexual relationship as normal to children. Churches that exercises their 1st amendment rights are being demonized, harassed and threatened. Secular and government worker can now get fired from their jobs for expressing their religious objections to same-sex marriage. Will the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 give equality for to its citizens?

I urge you not to approve the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Thank for your audience.

Sincerely,

Richard Long

Oct. 26,2013

Poamoho Bible Church
Poamoho Village
Wahiawa, HI

Regarding Same Sex Bill- Special Session

Dear State Legislatures,

I would like to express my opposition to this bill on the Same Sex marriage. As I have been following along carefully over the last few weeks and having read about our great State of Hawaii and studying the Bible. Here are some confirmations that have been very clear.

The institution of marriage has always been defined as between a man and a women and with this union, as God allows, the procreation of children. As I have just recently learned, in the motto of Hawaii, it states that the land is perpetuated in righteousness through Jesus Christ.

I think many of us have forgotten about the last part of the motto. The State's original motto included that we are to follow through and with Jesus Christ. If we are to follow and live our lives within this motto, then the words of Jesus Christ are very clear about the sanctity of marriage and marriage as between a man and women.

Thank you for allowing the citizens of Hawaii to voice our concerns and urge you to vote NO for this bill so that God can continue to honor and bless our great State.

Pastor Rob Araki

House Judiciary Committee
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Finance Committee
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

David J. Fukuzawa – representing myself as a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii
91-1090 Aawa Drive, Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Telephone: 808-286-4255

Monday, October 28, 2013 – Special Legislative Session 2 for 2013

Senate Bill 1: Marriage Equality in the State of Hawaii

My position on this bill – OPPOSE (Written Testimony Only)

My name is David J. Fukuzawa. I have been legal and voting citizen in the State of Hawaii for 22 years. I am a semi-retired State of Hawaii Correctional Worker. I worked in the state for almost 15 years when I had to retire due to health reasons. I am testifying today in opposition of the proposed legislation regarding Marriage Equality for Same-sex unions.

The reason I am opposed is because by passing this legislation; you will effectively infringe upon the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America. This right allows people to practice or not practice religious faiths as one desires without government intervention in favor of or against. Additionally, you will have caused people to censure what they say from this point forward.

I state this because in the research I conducted regarding how most common religions in the United States have historically almost always exclusively viewed marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Please note the various faith systems I reviewed: Hindu, Islam, Shinto, Buddhism, Tao, Judaism, Wicca, Christianity, Catholic, Mormon, Jehovah Witness, Orthodox Christians. These beliefs in many cases directly refer to the marriage union as one man and one woman, or implied it by dictating how a person is supposed to treat their marriage partner of the opposite sex. By passing any legislation that creates marriage between two people of the same sex; you would infringe upon the values and beliefs of all these different faith systems. The sanctity of marriage has been culturally around since man first started to walk this earth.

As I mentioned earlier, I was a correctional worker. Wouldn't it be a shame to be the legislature who created a bill that could in fact cause one of these clergy or one of their congregants to be locked up and imprisoned because of how they believed and practiced their faith. By doing this you will have effectively censured these people from quoting their religious doctrines. You will cause people to go underground in practicing their faiths. We would essentially become like China.

What concerns me even more; is what would come next. What other inalienable rights would be taken away from the people of Hawaii. I am sure when the Sovereign Nation of Hawaii decided to become democratic from an autocratic society, they never thought about doing this to their

people. And I am sure it was the same when Hawaii decided to become a State in the Union. Please remember we are s state government of the people and run by the people for the people of Hawaii. Lets not change things for a very small minority special interest group (approximately 1/5th of 1%.) Besides, haven't the people of Hawaii already spoken to this issue in 1998, and in 2011 when Civil Unions became law. Let's make the people of Hawaii proud and be pono about this.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion regarding this issue. I do realize the difficulty in having to decide what is best for the people of Hawaii. I sincerely hope that the decision you collectively make will be for the best of all the people in Hawaii in the near and distant future of our state.

Again, I strongly oppose any legislation regarding Marriage Equality for Same Sex unions in the state of Hawaii.

Toni Lathrop-Lee
Res: 92-1200 Uahanai St., Kapolei, HI 96707
Bus: 95-1249 Meheula Pkwy. Ste 140, Mililani, HI 96789

I am writing concerning the Special Legislative session on same-sex marriage. I strongly oppose the passage of such legislation and do not feel that passing this measure represents the will of the Hawaii people. A constitutional amendment was passed previously with 70% of the Hawaii people supporting the protection of the sacred institution of marriage between one man and one women.

Beyond that, I feel that in trying to "equalize" rights for a very small minority, you are removing the rights of the larger majority by forcing the teachings of homosexual behaviors in school, forcing clergy and business owners to support something that is against their beliefs, and removing the rights of individuals to discuss these topics when they feel it is appropriate for themselves and their families. You only need to look at the states that have already passed similar legislation to see the divisiveness this has caused within their constituents. We do not want this for our Aloha State.

Every person should be respected and every person's right to freedom respected. This bill does not provide individuals or organizations the same rights you are attempting to give to same-sex couples. The current religious exemption is totally overridden by the Accommodations Laws and individuals and organizations are left open to wrongful prosecution and/or lawsuits for exercising their right to freedom and their right to the separation of church and state.

The religious exemption extends no rights to individuals and effectively removes our right to personal freedom.

Please do not pass the same-sex marriage legislation. It does not give equal freedoms to all parties concerned.

Respectfully,

Toni Lathrop-Lee

October 27, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

According to an article on page A-13 of the September 20 edition of the Wall Street Journal, same-sex marriage legislation has had a devastating impact on citizens who decline to serve same-sex ceremonies due to religious conflicts. For example:

- A florist in Richland, Washington, was sued by the State Attorney General and the American Civil Liberties Union.
- A Christian couple that owns a bakery in Gresham, Oregon closed their shop because the State launched an investigation into their religious objections.
- The New Mexico Supreme Court upheld a $6,637 fine against Elane Photography, stating that being “compelled by law to compromise the very religious beliefs that inspire their lives” was “the price of citizenship."
- Many County recorders, magistrates, judges, town clerks, and justices of the peace in Iowa, Massachusetts, and New York have resigned because they were told that refusing to perform services for same-sex couples will result in criminal prosecutions for misdemeanors or other sanctions.

This legislation will have little effect on the civil rights of the estimated 5% of Hawaii's residents who identify themselves as gay or lesbian, because they can travel to any one of the fourteen states or the District of Columbia, which have adopted same-sex marriage legislation, to get married. However, it will have a catastrophic effect on the First Amendment rights of the 95% of Hawaii's residents who identify themselves as religious.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,

Aaron Moke Stephens
Keaau, HI 96749

Objection to the proposed law identified as SB-1:

My objection to the proposed law is based on two very simple premises.

WE THE PEOPLE

The first premise is that our legislative representatives have a moral and legal obligation to make no law that is fundamentally against the will of the majority of the voting population; and that in our democratic society it is the will of the people that should determine how the lawmakers consider matters before them (despite the vocal and aggressive minorities that continue to shout of inequality and unfairness). The will of the people has been tested and determined on two prior occasions by ballot.
Hawaii's overwhelming majority is opposed to accepting same-sex marriage into law. If the legislators have any doubt as to the continuing consensus, then it is their obligation to test it again by bringing this matter directly to the people and not proceeding with legislation based upon their own personal opinions or that of the vocal minority.

MARRIAGE IS NOT ONLY A RELIGIOUS COVENANT, IT CONTAINS THE FABRIC OF OUR CULTURE

The second premise, which should dominate your thinking, is to recognize that marriage (between a man and a woman) remains an important cultural institution in our society, with certain rights and obligations attached to the titles "mother, father and spouse". Even our own recent American history indicates that without the solid "marriage components of father and mother" our societal structures are slowly disintigrating. Strictly in the "civil" sense, and with no religious attributes, the rights and obligations attached to marriage (between a man and a woman) are both cultural and economic, and they predate by centuries, our American Constitution and the liberties and freedoms described in our country's founding documents. Recognizing this, and our society's need to bolster customary marriage instead of diminishing it, you should follow and support these precepts, and not try to Legislate culture, morality or attitudes for the people.

CIVIL UNIONS, THE CORRECT ANSWER

If the issue truly is equality of benefits (civil rights) within our government, then you are changing the wrong law. If the law pertaining to Civil Unions does not provide all benefits that pertain to "Marriage" (in this state and in others), then change the Civil Union law to provide those rights and benefits that are not now available to same-sex partners. The citizens of Hawaii would not only applaud such an effort, they would ultimately realize how fairly we are represented, and continue to support you politically. Attempting to legislate a new and ill-favored augmentation of the existing connotation of marriage without the consent or the will of the people is a mistake with far-reaching consequences. Don't do it.

Robert L. Smith
(kunk@hawaii.rr.com)

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees:

My name is Timothy Ma, I am a registered voter in Oahu, and I am in opposition Senate Bill 1 - legalizing same sex marriage in the state of Hawaii.

Here are my reasons opposing the bill:

Same-sex marriage should not be passed in a special session because: No amendments can be made to legislation. As a result the voice of the people is NOT adequately heard in a five-days special session, especially if that voice is “amend the bill”.

Legislators must respect fundamental democratic principles: The people believed they voted on this issue in 1998 – the current polls show that Hawaii favors same-sex marriage. So why not let the people vote?

Marriage is an institution and NOT a civil right, and no court (including the Supreme Court) has ever said that it is.

The governor’s current bill will NOT protect church facilities. Churches that offers a public service (such as a preschool, a meeting place for community groups like a neighborhood board, Zumba classes etc.) by definition your church is a public accommodation and would be legally obligated to sanction a same-sex marriage if it were requested.

I implore you Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees to please heed precaution approaching this session and making the democratic decision by allowing this bill to have its proper place and time in a normal session.

Mahalo for your service and hearing the voice of the people,

Timothy Ma

October 26, 2013

To our elected Governor, Senator and Representatives:

This letter is in **STRONG OPPOSITION to the gay marriage bill** being considered in special session and I hope you take the time to consider the point of view expressed against this bill.

Hawaii has **already passed a Civil Union bill** that allows same sex couples to have the legal and tax benefits that married couples do.

However, this new gay marriage bill redefines marriage and it should be **debated more thorougly in regular session** instead of rushing it through in a special session.

The gay marriage bill being proposed in a special session **injures Hawaii residents, employees and business owners whose faith teaches against same sex practices and prohibits them from supporting such a lifestyle**. While the bill has some provisions making an exemption for religious organizations, passing this bill puts individuals and business owners who will be faced with a conflict between their faith and the law. This bill will have unintended consequences that will injure individuals and business owners whose faith does not allow them to support such an alternative lifestyle. It should not be passed haphazardly in special session without hearing the concerns of all those affected.

As most of the world religions teaches against this alternative lifestyle and affects many Hawaii residents negatively, please do not rush this through special session and decide on this issue unilaterally. We urge you to take the time to hear our concerns, better understand the consequences and impact that this bill has against a large group of Hawaii residents, and perhaps let those whom you represent decide on this issue.

We are registered voters and this issue is very important to us and our children. We also know it is very important to many other people although they choose to keep silent about this.

Please do not vote on this bill without considering how it will injure your constituency and other Hawaii residents.

Respectfully signed,

Jonagustine and Kristine Lim

Progressive Democrats of Hawai‘i
http://pd-hawaii.com
1418 Mokuna Pl., Honolulu, HI 96816
mailto:info@pd-hawaii.com
Tel: 808.371.9334

Monday, October 28, 2013

Relating to Senate Bill 1 Testifying in Support
On Behalf of
Progressive Democrats of Hawai‘i

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Mahalo for this opportunity to present testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 1 Relating to Equal Rights, which will legally recognize and allow for marriages for same-sex couples. We believe this is a bill that is a long time coming and we want to thank Chair Hee and the members of the committee for taking the time to hear this historic and incredibly important piece of legislation.

Progressive Democrats of Hawai’i (PDH) assumes everyone has heard the arguments from both supporters and opponents of this bill, so we are restricting our testimony to the issue we think will be the fulcrum on which its fate will be decided; the question of the breadth of the religious exemption.

The majority of opponents, including those expressing objection or concern on religious grounds have, for very pragmatic reasons, decided not to oppose the bill on the question of marriage equality itself, but rather on the very thinly veiled question of religious freedom. PDH, however, believes this argument is a red herring which should not derail the march toward equality.

We believe strongly in the free exercise of religion guaranteed by the First Amendment. Religious institutions for which same-sex marriage is a violation of their faith shouldn’t be forced to perform those marriages. Lest the guise of “religious discrimination” be seen as a legitimate reason for withholding support for this landmark legislation, we feel the need to point out the protection that has been codified in the the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Section 4 of the Hawai’i State Constitution.

The highest law of the land spells out, in no uncertain terms, that government cannot force a religious institution to do something that violates their beliefs. And though its opponents will attempt to claim otherwise, this bill does not violate their First Amendment rights.

If a religious institution allows its clergy to perform marriages for non-members, if it allows non-members to use its facilities and grounds for marriage ceremonies and celebrations, and does it in exchange for money, it cannot claim protection under the First Amendment, nor Article I, Section 4. That institution is then considered a “public accommodation” and subject to anti-discrimination laws.

Many point to our island state as the place where the same-sex marriage movement began. We believe this is a heritage to be proud of and though, in the nearly two decades since, many states have moved ahead of us on this issue, it is finally time for Hawaii to take its place on the right side of this issue and on the right side of history.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

Bart Dame	**Gail Breakey**	**John Bickel**	**Alan Burdick**	**Peter Ehrhorn**	**Josh Frost**	**Kim Langley**
Co-Chair	Co-Chair	Steering Committee Member	Steering Committee Member	Steering Committee Member	Steering Committee Member	Steering Committee Member

Dear Elected Official,

I am a registered voter and I am asking you to vote 'no' on the same-sex marriage amendment. This is not a civil rights issue according to the Supreme Court, yet many representatives are turning away the input of their constituents because they falsely believe it is. The people should decide a constitutional amendment. I urge you to let the public vote.

The governor's current bill does not protect the religious rights of individuals who work in public capacities. As a public school teacher, I would be legally obligated to teach about a subject that I do not support, usurping my religious freedom.

As a parent, I want to be the main influence for the development of my child's values and morals. Unlike "sex-education", which can be opted out of so that my husband and I can discuss it with our child in the context of the values that we hold, same-sex marriage would be integrated into all subjects. Please take these things into consideration as you make decisions during the special session. The implications of passing the bill are far reaching; therefore, the decision should be left in the hands of the voters of this democratic society.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. Taira

To Whom This May Concern,

My name is Jorji Akiona Oden. I have lived in Hawaii all my 45 years of life. I am a Native Hawaiian, a mother of 5 outstanding children, attending college to obtain my degree in Social Services. I would like to be numbered amongst my fellow citizens in opposition of SB Bill #1. I would like to share this testimony with you.

There has never been a time, at least in recent history, when we have been confronted with more challenging problems in our homes and families. We need not remind you that the world we are in is a world of turmoil, and of shifting values. Shrill voices call out for one thing or another in betrayal of time-tested standards of behavior. So many of the youth of the world, and likewise so many of their elders, listen only to the voice of self-gratification. The moral foundations of our society have been badly shaken.

There are those who would have us believe in the validity of what they choose to call same-sex marriage. We know there are a small number of people in this country who have feelings of affinity for the same gender. We love and regard them as our brothers and sisters. However, we cannot condone so dramatically redefining marriage without serious and sobering consequences for our families, communities, education systems and long held religious traditions and institutions of this country.

With so much of sophistry that is passed off as truth, with so much of deception concerning standards and values, those who have gone before us--as if they were standing here today– would warn and forewarn on this bill to change marriage. In furtherance of this, I would like to reiterate our submission today with a reaffirmation of standards, doctrines, and practices relative to the family which have been repeatedly stated throughout history.

We, as a husband and wife and as citizens of this country, proclaim our belief that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children.

All human beings--male and female--are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny.

The family is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan. Children are entitled to birth within the bonds of matrimony, and to be reared by a father and a mother who honor marital vows with complete fidelity. By divine design, fathers preside over their families in love and righteousness and are responsible to provide the necessities of life and protection for their families. Mothers are primarily responsible for the nurture of their children. In these sacred responsibilities, fathers and mothers help one another as equal partners.

We stand with those who have gone before us and warn that the disintegration of the family will bring upon individuals, communities, and nations the calamities foretold by ancient and modern prophets.

We call upon responsible citizens and officers of government everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society. The accumulated wisdom of centuries declares with clarity and certainty that the strength of any nation is rooted within the walls of its homes. The institution that will save our broken society is not Government, it is the home..

Thank you.

H. THOMAS KAY, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
State Capitol Auditorium

My name is Tom Kay. I am a kamaʻaina attorney. I strongly oppose enacting S.B. 1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 in this Second Special Session of the Hawaii State Legislature. Such action will be unconstitutional under Article 1 §23 of the Hawaii Constitution. §23 provides as follows:

"The legislature shall have power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples."

§23 was enacted by the legislature in 1997 as an amendment to the Hawaii Constitution and ratified by 69.2 percent of the voters in 1998. The sole purpose of this constitutional amendment was to reverse the Hawaii Supreme Court decision in the Baehr v. Lewin case in which the court had held that same-sex marriages in Hawaii were constitutional. Following the passage of §23 the Hawaii Supreme Court held, in an unreported decision, that the §23 constitutional marriage amendment validated HRS §572-1 which states that marriage can only be between one man and one woman.

To the 285,671 Hawaii voters out of 412,820 who cast votes in 1998, this meant that by reading constitutional amendment §23 along with the language of HRS §572-1 there could be no legal marriages of same-sex couples in Hawaii.

It also means to the voters today including those of the 285,671 voters still living in Hawaii that any consideration of legalizing marriage of same-sex couples must require an amendment to §23 of the Hawaii Constitution by a vote of the people of Hawaii.

If the Hawaii Legislature in this special session passes the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act two inevitable events will occur:

1. Litigation in both federal and state courts will continue for many years to determine whether the Marriage Act is constitutional before it is ever implemented.
2. There will be an extremely large group of angry Hawaii voters whose right to vote on this major issue was abrogated by current legislators.

The obvious solution to this dilemma is to let the Hawaii voters decide on whether same-sex couples should be allowed to marry under Hawaii law.

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Please allow the people of Hawaii to decide on Same Sex Marriage. Same Sex Marriage is the most controversial social issue of our time and it should be decided by the most transparent and democratic method possible, a popular vote by the people.

In 1998, we the people of Hawaii voted for what we understood would be defining marriage between one man and one woman. 69% of the people of our state voted for this definition of a marriage between opposite sex couples.

If you want to redefine marriage, please let the people you represent decide by a constitutional amendment. One that means what it says, not a legal loophole.

"Should the State of Hawaii define marriage as solely between one man and one woman."

I ask that you take the issue back to the people of Hawaii and allow us to vote for a clearly worded constitutional amendment and to decide on the definition of marriage we choose for our state. Please do not take away our right to vote. Please do not decide for us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Darrin Araki
Voter and Concerned Citizen
Pearl City

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I appreciate that the Governor and members of the Legislature have taken oaths to support and defend the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Hawaii, and also discharge their duties to the best of their abilities. The fulfillment of their oaths of office requires integrity, courage, commitment, and sacrifice. As a retired military officer I understand the significance of their oaths of office, and I am grateful for our state and federal officials, and men and women in uniform who have sacrificed to defend our constitutional rights and freedoms.

Many are concerned with how the bill might impact rights protected by the U.S. and State Constitutions. The idea that the proposed same-sex marriage bill requires religious protections in the first place has raised concerns about infringement of First Amendment (U.S. Constitution) and Article 1, Section 4 (State Constitution) freedoms. Even more troubling is that the bill will be considered during a five-day session and cannot be amended with little or no public input.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

Any legislation which will transform all aspects of Hawaii's society—and have pervasive, long term, and irrevocable effects—should be decided by the people of Hawaii; especially if it will infringe upon their constitutional rights and freedoms. Letting the people of Hawaii decide on the issue of marriage is about ensuring the constitutional rights of all citizens are protected. The last thing Hawaii needs from the special session is rushed and ill-considered legislation that disenfranchises much of the electorate.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate a thousand years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Colonel Dan Melton U.S. Marine Corps (retired)
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

October 27, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Since I cannot be present to testify, I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.

It is my firm belief that marriage is between a man and a woman. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. To discuss and decide the outcome of an issue of this magnitude, amongst the politicians only, takes my rights as a citizen away. This is something that should be decided by the people. **PLEASE LET THE PEOPLE VOTE**!

If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that **sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon**. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

For these reasons, I request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
Lanae S. Akiona
A Citizen of Hilo Hawaii District

Headquarters

HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

1727 PALI HIGHWAY / HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 / PH: 522-9200 / FAX: 522-9209

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is the largest Buddhist denomination in Hawaii and we have provided spiritual guidance for nearly 125 years. Our Shin Buddhist teaching provides guidance on how to live mindfully with an awareness of universal compassion which embraces and uplifts all people equally without exception. We dedicate our lives to nurturing compassion and we work daily to promote social justice for all people. We believe that the issue of marriage equality is one of basic civil rights and that it is morally just to provide equal rights and responsibilities to loving, committed same-gender couples.

In 2010, the governing body of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii adopted a resolution supporting equal rights for same-gender couples because we believe that the freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. According to our teachings, gender is not what is important, but rather the commitment and respect that all people, regardless of their gender, brings to their relationship that is most essential.

We believe that religious freedom is adequately protected in this bill. It is clear that no member of the clergy will be required to perform a wedding ceremony with which he or she disagrees. Some religious denominations will perform marriages for same-gender couples, and some will not, just as some houses of worship perform interfaith marriages and some will not. This bill does not change that. This protection applies to all religious institutions regardless of how they are organized or where they worship. Again, it is clergy who will always get to decide which weddings they will officiate. Our ministers would welcome the opportunity to perform weddings for same-gender couples as it affirms our spiritual values.

We humbly ask for your support for same-gender couples having the right to marry as a step towards ensuring that everyone in our society is treated equally and with compassion.

With gratitude,

Rev. Blayne Higa
Chair
Committee on Social Concerns
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

Many are concerned with how the bill might impact rights protected by the U.S. and State Constitutions. The idea that the proposed same-sex marriage bill requires religious protections in the first place has raised concerns about infringement of First Amendment (U.S. Constitution) and Article 1, Section 4 (State Constitution) freedoms. Even more troubling is that the bill will be considered during a five-day session and cannot be amended with little or no public input.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

Any legislation which will transform all aspects of Hawaii's society—and have pervasive, long term, and irrevocable effects—should be decided by the people of Hawaii; especially if it will infringe upon their constitutional rights and freedoms. Letting the people of Hawaii decide on the issue of marriage is about ensuring the constitutional rights of all citizens are protected. The last thing Hawaii needs from the special session is rushed and ill-considered legislation that disenfranchises much of the electorate.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate a thousand years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Yong Melton
Mrs. Yong Melton
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

October 26, 2013

To: Chair Senator Clayton Hee
Vice Chair Senator Maile Shimabukuro
and Members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee

RE: In **Strong OPPOSITION to SB1,** relating to "Equal Rights"

Hearing Day and Date: Monday, October 28, 2013

Hearing Time & Place: 10:30 a.m. in the Hawai'i State Capitol Auditorium

My name is Daryl Yamada. I am the Senior Pastor of Mililani Missionary Church and I am a registered voter in the State of Hawaii. This is my testimony regarding my STRONG OPPOSITION to SB1.

I oppose SB1 because the passage of this bill would greatly restrict the religious freedom of the people of Hawaii and such enactment would eventually violate the constitutional rights of the people. The First Amendment of our US Constitution clearly states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech…" The passage of SB1, as recent history has shown, would eventually nullify our first three constitutional rights of the First Amendment.

First, although the intent of this bill is not to establish a state or government religion, the passage of such a bill would establish a belief system that will be imposed upon the will of the people regardless if they agree with it or not. Recently a Department of Justice group called DOJ Pride (operating with the approval of the Department of Justice) sent out a directive requiring employees to vocally affirm homosexuality stating "DON'T judge or remain silent. Silence will be interpreted as disapproval." This directive basically mandates employees to publically affirm a belief system regardless if they want to or not. Employees who do not agree with this directive risk, at the very least, being discriminated against, and can possibly be reprimanded or released from employment. People no longer have the freedom to believe what they want, but are now told what to believe (establishment of belief system) or suffer the consequences.

Second, the passage of SB1 would greatly prohibit our ability to freely exercise our religion as guaranteed by the Constitution. There are numerous cases across the United States (including Hawaii) where parents, school teachers, and businesses were denied their Constitutional right to freely practice their faith. These people of faith were often penalized, fined, disciplined or fired because they could not in good conscience approve same-sex marriage or disagreed with the promoting of homosexual teachings and materials. In September 2013, the San Antonio City Council approved an anti-discrimination ordinance that protects homosexuals and provides special rights to transgendered people. In addition, the ordinance barred business owners who take a faith-based stance against the LGBT lifestyle from doing business in the city. This reverse discrimination clearly sends a legal message that you may not earn a living in our city if you disagree with our beliefs.

Also, there are numerous examples across the country of parents who have been denied the right to be notified when curriculum that they may deem to be objectionable or against their beliefs are taught in the schools. Parents no longer are able to remove their children temporarily from a school setting that runs in opposition to their beliefs. This leads to the indoctrination of our children with a belief system that parents have no control over.

Thirdly, as a person who believes in and teaches the Bible, the passage of SB1 will inevitably take away my freedom of speech. Many instances have occurred in Canada where the clergy have become targets of anti-discrimination laws because they chose to speak out on what the Bible teaches about homosexuality. Some clergy have been ordered to pay fines, make apologies, and told never to speak publicly on such matters again. Our fundamental right to "freedom of speech" will be greatly limited in the near future if SB1 is enacted.

It is truly unfortunate that any disagreement to the acceptance of homosexuality is automatically determined to be "hateful" and "bigoted." There is no middle ground where both sides can agree to disagree, and tolerance appears to be only one-sided. If equality is truly the goal of this bill, then we must ensure that equal rights will be extended to ALL and not just a select group of people.

A bill of this magnitude, surrounded by such controversy needs more time to be discussed than the time allotted in a special session. If both sides are to be heard and both sides are to be protected, then it is imperative that we do not rush this bill through in a Special Session.

That is why I strongly oppose this Special Session and the passage of SB1. I urge you to please consider my testimony and to vote 'NO' on SB1.

Sincerely,
Daryl Yamada
Senior Pastor
Mililani Missionary Church
95-801 Kipapa Drive
Mililani, HI 96789
808-623-4469

October 25, 2013

RE: SB1-RELATING TO EQUALITY

To The: Governor Niel Abercrombie, Legislature, Hawaii State House Leaders, Hawaii Island District Representatives and any Persons of interest:

This is to inform you that I **OPPOSE** the Bill entitled SB1-Relating to Marriage Equality.

I own a small business in the State of Hawaii, and in this Bill I would have to abide by a law that mandates me to provide services to individuals and promote solemnization. That is something that I do not agree with.

In this Bill, it discriminates every constitutional right of MY freedom. The freedom to live what I believe. The freedom to share my beliefs with others. This Bill would breech my first amendment constitutional right. That right does state:
"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."
You are asking that I put my personal religious beliefs aside to regard a population as "equal"-to what extent?

If you want equality-then let the people vote. Remember that from generation to generation, our children will have to live with the ramifications of what is put into place. YOU WILL NOT be the ones to explain this to my children.

My only hope is that true justice will be served on behalf of our entire society.

Thank you for your time.
Keone Iranon
K II K Services, Inc.

SB1

The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act should be passed in order to provide equality of human rights for same-sex couples in Hawaii. The non-recognition of same-sex marriage not only violated the fifth amendment under United States v. Windsor, but also continues to violate rights asserted in the fourteenth amendment of the U.S. Constitution: anyone born in the United States should not be deprived of life, liberty, and property without due process of law. Gay couples have been deprived of these rights, therefore the Marriage Equality Act should be ratified to provide same-sex couples the same benefits, responsibilities, and protections as opposite-sex couples. This means that gay couples should be allowed to marry under the laws of Hawaii state, use religious facilities if it makes profit, while keeping the protection of religious freedom, and be provided the “five state interests” under 1999 Baehr v. Miike in the state of Hawaii.

October 25, 2013

RE: SB1-RELATING TO EQUALITY

To The: Governor Niel Abercrombie, Legislature, Hawaii State House Leaders, Hawaii Island District Representatives and any Persons of interest:

This is to inform you that I OPPOSE the Bill entitled SB1-Relating to Marriage Equality.

I am apart of a small business and in this Bill I would have to abide by a law that mandates me to provide services to individuals and promote solemnization. That is something that I do not agree with.

In this Bill, it deletes every constitutional right of MY freedom. The freedom to live what I believe. The freedom to share my beliefs with others. This Bill breechs my first amendment constitutional right. That right does state: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

You are asking that I put my personal religious beliefs aside to regard a population as "equal"-to what extent?

If you want equality-then let the people vote. Remember that from generation to generation, our children will have to live with the ramifications of what is put into place. YOU WILL NOT be the ones to explain this to my children.

My only hope is that true justice will be served on behalf of our entire society.

Thank you for your time.

Kuulei Iranon
K II K Services, Inc.

Gregory S Fritz
91-555 Pupu Street
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Greg Fritz and I urge you to oppose Special Session SB1: Relating to Marriage.

Setting aside one's personal beliefs relating to homosexuality, the manner in which this Senate Bill is being processed preempts the democratic process by rushing the legislation through an abbreviated special session and not allowing for the people of the state to voice their support or opposition. It would appear that those in favor of SB1 suspect that another opportunity for the people to speak up would yield the same result as past votes and would reveal, as language proposed to be stricken reads, "that the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage as a unique social institution based on the committed union of one man and one woman."

In addition to not giving ample time to discuss a bill regarding one of the most controversial topics of our time, the fact that no amendments can be made to the legislation if

passed is more like what one would find in a monarchy or dictatorship and creates a sham of the democratic process.

I ask that the lawmakers of our state would consider this issue better treated by the constitutional amendment process that would allow for due democratic process to take place. I urge you to vote NO on SB 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Gregory S. Fritz
Hawaii Voter

Testimony in Support of SCR No. 166 and SR 123
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30am, State Capitol Auditorium

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the JDL Committee:

The Young Democrats at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa strongly supports Senate Bill 1, Relating to Equal Rights.

Hawai'i is known for its diverse population and abundance of cultural influences. It is important to recognize that allowing equal rights for same-sex couples that enter into a marriage is necessary in maintaining these diversities, as well as supporting equality for all citizens, regardless of each individual's sex. Same-sex marriage and marriage equality in Hawai'i is long overdue. Being known as the Aloha State, our elected officials should extend the Aloha and acceptance across the state for equality for all couples.

As young, Democratic student leaders at a leading university in Hawai'i, the Young Democrats at UH Manoa endorse marriage equality on campus and throughout the Aloha State. Our organization sanctions justice and equality in all aspects of life. We encourage elected officials to make the right choice and be a part of history in Hawai'i by becoming the 15th state in the nation to support same-sex marriage and equality for all ohanas.

With Aloha,

Cali Reed
President of Young Democrats at UH Manoa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: annaleeacord@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:15:21 AM
Attachments: ssm.pages.zip

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Ann Merrill	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marriage because Same Sex Marriage violates Chinese Tradition.

American Chinese are very serious about family. We tell the youth that taking care the elderlies in the family is their duty. We finance businesses through family. We borrow money to buy properties through family. We obtain the best education through family.

We know from our hearts that we need love from father and mother, so we apply the same to others. Our children need love from their father and mother as we do.

Same Sex Marriage bill is going to destroy Chinese tradition. We want our local boys and girls know that rearing family biologically is the best. We want to give the best to our future.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marraige because of our heartfelt concern and compassion for the future of our state. I concern over the physical, mental and emotional problems that will beset those who choose the homosexual lifestyle, and I object to what this will do to our community, my children and to my traditional family life. Evidence clearly show that children must be raised in a traditional family environment to thrive and to grow.

In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

Hello Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor. My name is Alec Shimizu, I am a registered voter from Halawa and I am opposed to SB1 for the following reasons:

- The magnitude of this bill and its effects are so great, that it shouldn't be decided upon by legislators but, rather, left up to the people to decide. I want to have a say in this bill and I feel that my constitutional right is being denied and infringed upon.

- There is no need to rush this process. Yes, the governor has called a special session, but it does not mean that a decision must be made. It is my hope that you will consider this bill in greater detail by tabling this discussion until the regular session convenes in January 2014. At that time, a closer look at this bill and the far-reaching effects of it can be looked at more closely and a prudent decision can then be made.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony. I hope you will consider my views and allow the decision to made at a later date and by the people of Hawai`i.

In SUPPORT OF SB 1

October 28, 2013

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

Mahalo for hearing this important bill.

I believe that marriage equality is a civil rights issue. I urge you to support marriage for all couples in Hawaii. I believe that all loving and committed couples should be treated with the same dignity and respect.

I appreciate your consideration.

Mahalo,

Robin Derbes
Kamuela, HI 96743

October 27, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

Redefining marriage not only affects the estimated 5% of Hawai'i residents who identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian, but will change society forever for the other 95% of Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE**!

If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that **sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon**. Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,

Bruce K. Meyers
485 F Kaumana Dr.
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Pakela Akaka
3263 Mokihana St. Honolulu HI 968160 - mr.pkillah@gmail.com

The Honorable Senators and Representatives of the State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

October 25, 2013

RE: Opposition to Proposed Marriage Bill

Aloha Senators and Representatives of the State of Hawaii,

My name is Pakela Alfred Akaka; I am a 19 year old resident from Honolulu, Hawaii. I thank you for the opportunity to provide my personal thoughts and insight to you and your colleagues. For the past month I have been very involved in getting informed on the issue of same sex marriage. I have spoken with several lawyers, attorneys, as well as scholars of both marriage and religious liberties. As a sufficiently informed concerned individual I find this Bill to be inadequate regarding it's protections to religious freedoms.

I am strongly opposed to this bill because I feel that it does not grant the proper protections to religious freedoms that I feel should be addressed if this bill is to be considered acceptable. I am also opposed to this bill because of the special session. I feel it is being rushed without complete understanding, and that misunderstanding is creating a great division in the people that will only get worse if this bill should pass.

1. **Religious Protections that must be addressed.**

The religious exemptions in the bill are just too narrow to create any kind secure protection for religious organizations. The protections for clergy only apply to solemnization of marriage. An important clarification that I feel should be addressed is a protection for the celebration of marriage as well. Many of the other states that have passed same sex marriage have wording regarding not only the solemnization of marriage but the celebration of it as well. This will grant better protection for clergy than currently stated.

Secondly, I do not see much protection at all for religious individuals. What proponents of this bill fail to realize is that religion and churches are made up of religious individuals. Just as the gay community is made up of gay individuals deserving of the rights they are fighting for, so too is the religious community made up of religious individuals who are fighting to protect the rights they currently have. Many examples can be found in other states regarding lawsuits against religious individuals who face lengthy litigations because they have chosen to follow their beliefs. Being limited in the allowance to practice your beliefs is not the freedom to believe. Here are some points of protection that I feel should be addressed in some way in the bill stating that there are protections or stating that civil actions will be made:

Pakela Akaka
3263 Mokihana St. Honolulu HI 968160 - mr.pkillah@gmail.com

- Accreditation
- Tax exempt status
- Public officials (individual protections)
- Religious non-profits
- Small businesses offering wedding services
- Employment eligibility
- Employment benefits
- Licensing (doctors, counselors, psychologists, food service, adoption agency, etc.)
- Schools (protected from forced teachings, and protections for parental beliefs)
- Private Lawsuits
- Withdrawal of government benefits
- Denial of access to government facilities

Addressing all of these things in the bill and stating how it should be interpreted is something that I feel would be necessary in granting protections, and understanding where/how an individual would seek to protect them better.

2. **Contention of a Special Session**

Please know that I am a loving and caring person. I have a deep respect and love for others who do not share my faith or personal beliefs, and I would not seek to hurt the people of the gay community. It saddens me to think that anyone who speaks out against gay advocacy is rigidly and with lasting recognition as an ignorant homophobe, or a religious bigot. I have been striving from day one of getting involved to remove that stereotype with respect and understanding. Unfortunately not everyone is as willing to do the same in this issue.

Since getting involved with this issue I have been privileged to work with many different people, and also speak with those who stand opposed to me in their thought on the same sex marriage bill. Between those that are informed, those that are partially informed, and those that know little to nothing about what is going on here in Hawaii, there is just too much misunderstandings, assumptions, and misinformed lies. A very big division is something that I have noticed in the people of Hawaii because of this Bill and the special session.

In the church I have seen some of this contention among the members. Several members of the church who are actively engaged in this ordeal unjustly judge those who are not involved as being poor followers of Christ. Those who are not engaged become resentful of the members that are involved because they feel the contention created by poor judgment. These judgments and assumptions all done out of ignorance create a division among the hearts of men that take away from the potential for people to create an environment of happiness and love.

Another sad example of the division created herein is between society and the churches themselves. Some Christians/other religious folk go around preaching their

Pakela Akaka
3263 Mokihana St. Honolulu HI 968160 - mr.pkillah@gmail.com

beliefs and discounting the rights of others to believe differently. Meanwhile, on the other hand, the general public is being led by the media to believe that the religious folk are the only ones who will be affected and that they are just being radical fanatics. This discounts the beliefs of those churches as well as the efforts of their members. The gay community, from my experience, feel that the churches are slated out to suppress them of their freedoms, and the churches feel most of them to be unaware of the potential damages to religious freedoms. The problem is that there is so much misunderstanding and contention because of how fast this special session is occurring that Hawaii's society is really becoming divided.

The most heartbreaking news for me is how my friend Sheri Bren, who is currently pregnant with her 9th child, and her husband were both attacked while they were waving signs on Friday Oct. 25th 2013. Her description is as follows:

A man ripped down & stole our banner, intentionally banged my husband's truck (twice), and tried to run us over as we were getting his license number. He continued to step on his gas & hit us with his car as I yelled for him to stop & that I was pregnant (yes, baby #9) he drug us both for a distance and only stopped because my husband smashed his windshield & stopped him.

I ask that you will all consider the word in the Hawaii Revised Statutes §5-7.5 "The Law of Aloha".

§ 5-7.5 "Aloha Spirit". (a) "**Aloha** Spirit" is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emote good feelings to others. In the contemplation and presence of the life force, "**Aloha**", the following **unuhi laulā loa** may be used:

"**Akahai**", meaning kindness to be expressed with tenderness;
"**Lōkahi**", meaning unity, to be expressed with harmony;
"**'Olu'olu**" meaning agreeable, to be expressed with pleasantness;
"**Ha'aha'a**", meaning humility, to be expressed with modesty;
"**Ahonui**", meaning patience, to be expressed with perseverance.

These are traits of character that express the charm, warmth and sincerity of Hawaii's people. It was the working philosophy of native Hawaiians and was presented as a gift to the people of Hawai'i. "**Aloha**" is more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation. "**Aloha**" means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return. "**Aloha**" is the essence of relationships in which each person is important to every other person for collective existence. "**Aloha**" means to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen and to know the unknowable.

(b) In exercising their power on behalf of the people and in fulfillment of their responsibilities, obligations and service to the people, the legislature, governor, lieutenant governor, executive officers of each department, the chief justice, associate justices, and judges of the appellate, circuit, and district courts may contemplate and reside with the life force and give consideration to the "**Aloha** Spirit". [L 1986, c 202, § 1]

Pakela Akaka
3263 Mokihana St. Honolulu HI 968160 - mr.pkillah@gmail.com

I am opposed to this bill because I feel that religious freedoms must be protected. I am opposed to this special session because I feel that the Aloha and love of this land and people must be protected as well. The contention and hatred has already begun to divide us, and passing this bill in a special session will only make things worse here. I pray that you will seriously consider the concerns of this 19 yr. old young man. These are matters of great importance for All of Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration and for your service as Senators and Representatives.

Mahalo,

Pakela Akaka
3263 Mokihana St
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808)-469-2642 (Cell)
Mr.pkillah@gmail.com

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am **opposing Same Sex Marriage** because Same Sex Marriage violates Chinese Tradition.

Chinese are very serious about family, even we moved and are living in Hawaii. I am told to take care and respect the elderly in the family. I obtain the best education and support through my family. Everyone knows from our hearts that we need love from father and mother, so we apply the same to others. Children need love from father and mother as I do.

Same Sex Marriage bill is going to destroy Chinese tradition. We want our local boys and girls know that rearing family biologically is the best. We want to give the best to our future.

Therefore, **please vote NO** on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

Sincerely,

Ka Fai TONG

October 28, 2013, 10:30a

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

Redefining marriage not only affects the estimated 5% of Hawai'i residents who identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian, but will change society forever for the other 95% of Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE**!

If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that **sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon**. Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
TJaye Forsythe
1581 Kaunala Way, Hilo, HI 96720

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair; Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Senator Mike Gabbard; Senator Brickwood Galuteria; Senator Les Ihara, Jr.; Senator Sam Slom; Senator Malama Solomon

HEARING DATE & TIME: Monday, October 28, 2013-10:30a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1 – EQUAL RIGHTS

I will not testify in person.

Written Testimony for SB1-Equal Rights (Marriage Equality)
From: Jane Pascual-Voter in Senate District 13 (Chinatown); House District 29
For Hearing on Monday, 10/28/13-Special Legislative Session

I am writing to encourage your SUPPORT (and YES vote) on Marriage Equality/Same Sex Marriages during the Special Session. Though I am heterosexual, I have several gay/lesbian friends who live here, and/or have ties to Hawaii and want to live and (legally) marry here. I have not seen or heard of any statistics or proof, anywhere around the world that shows Same Sex Marriages have ever brought adverse results to any community's economy or existence. Therefore, I see no reason to disallow Same Sex Marriages/Unions (especially for Survivorship/Inheritance reasons). I would rather have people (even of the same sex) loving one another (especially if it's not harming anyone) than hating each other or tearing each other down. I'm asking you to **consider that** when you hear debate on the issue of approving same sex marriages here in our beautiful State.

Please ALLOW Same Sex Marriages in Hawaii and let's (put this issue to rest once and for all, after at least 20 years of continuous debate) move on to all the other important issues (i.e., the economy, homelessness, hunger, education, mental health, etc.).

Everyone is entitled to his/her opinion. But I would like to be on record as SUPPORTING Marriage Equality in Hawaii. I support everyone's right to marry, whether they're straight, gay, or *whatever*…As long as they're in love, they should have a right to marry, regardless of their sexual preference. I especially sympathize with partners who have been together for many years, but currently in Hawaii, don't have the full benefits of "being reciprocal", as do heterosexual couples.

Please consider the civil rights of these individuals as you hear debate and take your final vote in the Special Session. Please vote YES for Equal Rights (regarding Marriage Equality in Hawaii).

Thank you,
Jane Pascual
Voter in Senate District 13
House District 29

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any same-sex marriage issue.

I understand that the focal point will be whether same-sex marriage is a civil right.

Homosexual activists argue that same-sex "marriage" is a civil rights issue similar to the struggle for racial equality in the 1960s.

This is false.

First of all, sexual behavior and race are essentially different realities. A man and a woman wanting to marry may be different in their characteristics: one may be black, the other white; one rich, the other poor; or one tall, the other short. None of these differences are insurmountable obstacles to marriage. The two individuals are still man and woman, and thus the requirements of nature are respected.

Same-sex "marriage" opposes nature. Two individuals of the same sex, regardless of their race, wealth, stature, erudition or fame, will never be able to marry because of an insurmountable biological impossibility.

Secondly, inherited and unchangeable racial traits cannot be compared with non-genetic and changeable behavior. There is simply no analogy between the interracial marriage of a man and a woman and the "marriage" between two individuals of the same sex.

Let the People Decide on Marriage. It is my opinion that the issue of same-sex marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same-sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people.

Sincerely,

Johnny Lau

2033 Nuuanu Avenue, Apt. 17B

Honolulu, HI 96817

<u>For the Senate hearing</u>: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any same-sex marriage issue.

Same-sex marriage is not a civil right. No court (including the United States Supreme Court) has ever said that same-sex marriage is civil right. In 2002, the **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** rejected the complaint that New Zealand banned same-sex marriage violating civil right.

It is my opinion that the issue of same-sex marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same-sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people.

Please let the people decide on marriage.

Amber Kauʻionālani Kukahiko
91-087 Laenani Dr. Box #B
Kahaluʻu, Hawaiʻi 96744

October 27, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hon. Clayton Hee, Chair
Hon. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Hon. Mike Gabbard
Hon. Brickwood Galuteria
Hon. Les Ihara, Jr.
Hon. Sam Slom
Hon. Mālama Solomon

Re: Testimony IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

Honorable Chair Hee and committee members:

My name is Amber Kauʻionālani Kukahiko. I was born and raised on the island of Oʻahu and currently attend a private school on the island. I am a 15-year-old student and a junior in high school. Currently I am a member of the P.R.I.D.E club ("People Respecting Individuality and Diversity in Everyone.") My family is apart of the many families in Hawaiʻi that could be greatly changed for the better through the recognition in the unions of same-sex marriage. I, therefore, write in very **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1.**

I write as one of the many teens across the world afraid to be who I am. I write because I identify myself as part of the Native Hawaiian, teenage, Christian and LGBTQ community. Everyday teens, whether they know it or not, become a bully. As a student attending a school in Hawaiʻi, it is very common to hear "oh, that's so gay!" Or even something worse such as, "Look at that gay boy!" It is hard to live in a community where this diversity exists especially between my peers and I. People don't realize the depth that their words carry and I believe that with that with the passing of this bill, the hearts and minds of teens everywhere will here the impact of the way their words affect other people.

I grew up on the Christian faith and was told to believe that any union of same-sex automatically condemns ones soul. The indignity of it all saddens me to see that our world cannot adapt and or change to the world around us. Religion is the common reason why there is so much distress against this bill today. However, as a young adolescent I can only see the good that will come from providing equality to all marriages. One may thing that Civil Unions should be enough, however I refute that with the division of marriages: Nothing. Will. Change. Forever we will exist as something below or in another class as opposite-sex couples, furthermore I believe we need change.

As the leaders of Hawaiʻi, I hope you look outward towards the community and see the betterment that comes from this bill. Help end the social diversity amongst my peers today that comes with being different from the rest of the world.

Mahalo Nui,

Amber Kauʻionālani Kukahiko

To The Committee on Judiciary and Labor
SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013
TIME: 10:30A.M.

My written testimony is **opposing** the SB 1 Bill (a.k.a. the gay marriage bill). I will not be testifying in person.

I am opposed to the gay marriage bill SB 1. Our legislators should let the people of this State decide via a vote in 2014, just like we did in 1998.

The reason I oppose this bill is that the LGBT community say they want equal rights under the tax laws. Therefore they should be taking their fight to the US Senate and House of Representatives, and lobby to have the Federal Tax Code changed so that the IRS will recognize civil unions and allow those couples to file jointly on their Federal Tax Returns. Then they can receive the same tax benefits that heterosexual couples receive. If the tax codes change, there is no reason for "marriage", since by their own admission, the reason they want marriage is to enjoy the same economic benefits that heterosexual couples receive; to be treated equally. Their efforts to change the marriage laws in 50 States creates contention, discord and divided communities.

Since our governor is sympathetic to the economic situation of the Gay and Lesbian community, he should write and submit a bill to our representatives in Washington, D.C. on their behalf, to change the Tax Code so that Civil Union and domestic partnerships can file jointly on their Federal Tax Return.

They were given civil unions/ domestic partnerships. Even

though there is no constitutional “right to marry”, they clamor for the “right” to marry. If they achieve that goal, they will not stop, but will continue with their agenda of making the homosexual lifestyle as accepting as the heterosexual lifestyle. They will move to press this
agenda by demanding changes to school curriculum like they have in the California, where it is illegal in your own home to teach your own children about heterosexual lifestyles only, even if your religion does not believe in same sex lifestyles. They will be demanding for equal lifestyle coverage in sex education. Research of the states that were the first to allow gay marriage finds that many schools are doing just that. In addition, many teachers are trying to be “politically correct” to the point of allowing posters reflecting the homosexual lifestyle while prohibiting posters of heterosexual lifestyles. They have been many court challenges in these schools. Is this what we want for the children of Hawaii, your children, your nieces and nephews, and grandchildren?

I find it outrageous that gay rights groups from outside of our State are lobbying our representatives and senators to pass a gay marriage bill. These people, according to the Honolulu Star Advertiser, have spent thousands of dollars to try to sway our local representatives and senators.
This bill would affect ***ALL*** the people of Hawaii. Why are we catering to a small group of people.

The Supreme Court ruled that same sex couples were being discriminated against by the ***Federal government***. They ARE NOT being discriminated against. They hold jobs, eat

at restaurants, shop where ever they want, go to the movies, travel, rent and buy houses, go to the church of their choice, choose whatever medical they want, etc. Since there is no constitutional right to marry, there is no discrimination.

The lesbian and gay community need to stop fighting for marriage in the States. They need to take their fight to the Federal government via the U.S. Congress; get the Federal Tax Codes changed to recognize civil unions. Stop dividing communities.

In 1998, the people decided. If that constitutional amendment gave the Legislature the right to **"redefine marriage"** as necessary, then the amendment on the ballot must have purposely been written to mislead the people.

Let the people decide if the legislature has the right to redefine marriage. Take this issue to the polls again. This time be very clear and offer two options:

1: ***"the legislature again defines that marriage is between one man and one woman who are not related to each other by blood or half-blood. This definition may not be changed except through constitutional amendment."***
2: "the legislature redefines marriage as being between two individuals of the opposite sex OR of the same sex, who are not related to each other by blood or half-blood."

Saying they should be able to marry whom they love, they are really saying that they want society to validate and affirm their lifestyle and choice of sexual partner.

To elevate civil unions to the status of sacramental marriage is an insult to religious tradition and the institution of marriage. Marriage of homosexuals is a sterile relationship; a mockery of an ancient institution that has
served mankind for the propagation of the human race.
To pass a gay marriage bill without putting it to a vote by the people is just wrong.
Let the people decide; put it on the ballot in 2014.

Sincerely,

Debra Medeiros

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
October 28, 2013

Hearing on Senate Bill 1
Relating to Equal Rights

Statement of Douglas Laycock, Thomas C. Berg, Bruce Ledewitz, Christopher C. Lund, and Michael J. Perry
(not appearing in person)

We write in support of same-sex marriage and in support of religious liberty. Senate Bill 1 should be amended to include far more robust protections for religious liberty. Then the bill should be passed. Only in that way will the legislature protect the liberty of all Hawaiians—both same-sex couples and religious conscientious objectors.

The signers of this testimony have devoted much of their careers to studying, teaching, and writing about the law of religious liberty in general, and the religious liberty issues arising from same-sex marriage in particular. One of us is co-editor of the leading book on the subject, *Same-Sex Marriage and Religious Liberty: Emerging Conflicts* (Rowman & Littlefield 2008) (Douglas Laycock, Anthony R. Picarello, & Robin Fretwell Wilson, eds.). Each of us is employed by a public or private university, but of course our universities take no position on the issues before the Committee. We testify in our personal capacity as scholars. We provide more information about ourselves at the end of this Statement.

We support same-sex marriage. We think that Senate Bill 1 can be a great advance for human liberty. But careless or overly aggressive drafting could create a whole new set of problems for the religious liberty of those religious believers who cannot conscientiously participate in implementing the new regime. The gain for human liberty will be severely compromised if same-sex couples now force religious dissenters to violate their conscience in the same way that those dissenters, when they had the power to do so, used to force same-sex couples to hide their sexuality. Conservative religious believers should not be allowed to veto same-sex marriage for those who want it, but neither should they

be forced to directly facilitate it in violation of their understanding of God's will.

Same-sex couples and traditional religious believers should not be at war with one another. Members of each group seek to protect a core part of their identity from interference by the state. Each seeks to manifest that identity in public practice, not confined to mere belief or orientation. Each is misunderstood and vilified by its opponents—far too often, each group vilifies the other. Each deserves legal protection for its deepest commitments.

It is important to keep in mind that marriage is both a legal relationship and a religious relationship. The profound religious significance of marriage means that many religious organizations and individual believers experience marriage equality as reaching deep into a fundamentally religious institution. The challenge for any bill is to equalize civil marriage while preserving religious control over religious marriage. Senate Bill 1 has not yet accomplished the task.

The religious exemptions in the current draft of Senate Bill 1 address only a small part of the problem. Existing religious exemptions in Hawaii civil rights laws fill another small part of the gap. But many issues remain to be addressed.

I. Religious Organizations

The proposed sections 572-E and 572-F of the Revised Statutes (created by § 2 of Senate Bill 1) protect the refusal to solemnize a marriage and the refusal to provide physical facilities for the solemnization of a marriage. Section 572-F appears to distinguish "solemnization" from "celebration," and to protect only with respect to "solemnization." That is, these sections do not even protect churches from having to host the wedding reception.

The issue of solemnization is important, but it is only the most obvious part of the issue for religious organizations. A bill that addresses only solemnization would do less to protect religious liberty than any other state that has enacted same-sex marriage by legislation. Equally important, and far more likely to be litigated, is the issue of *recognition* of same-sex marriages by religious organizations for purposes of carrying out their religious missions.

A religious organization, in the course of carrying out its religious mission, cannot in good conscience treat as married two persons whose relationship fundamentally violates the religious organization's understanding of marriage. Must the pastor provide pastoral counseling for a same-sex married couple? Must a church employ spouses in same-sex marriages—spouses that are publicly defying the church's teaching on marriage? A religious-liberty provision addressed only to solemnization neglects these and many similar issues.

II. Individuals

Senate Bill 1 provides no protection for individuals who provide services to help celebrate weddings or professional services to help sustain marriages. This omission threatens serious harm to a religious minority while conferring no real benefits on same-sex couples. Same-sex couples will rarely if ever actually want such personalized services from providers who fundamentally disapprove of their relationship, and they will nearly always be able to readily obtain these services from others who are happy to serve them.

It is one thing to say that a substantial business, with numerous employees to serve its customers, should serve all comers. It is quite another thing to say that an individual, or a very small business that is essentially an extension of an individual owner who is deeply involved in serving every customer, should have to provide personal services in violation of conscience. The few such owners who object typically believe marriage to be a fundamentally religious relationship, and believe facilitating a same-sex marriage to be a profound personal sin with respect to a religious matter.

It is not in the interest of the gay and lesbian community to create religious martyrs when enforcing the right to same-sex marriage. To impose legal penalties or civil liabilities on a wedding planner who refuses to do a same-sex wedding, or on an individual marriage counselor who refuses to provide marriage counseling to same-sex couples, will simply ensure that conservative religious opinion on this issue can repeatedly be aroused to fever pitch. Every such case will be in the news

repeatedly, and every such story will further inflame the opponents of same-sex marriage. Refusing exemptions to such religious dissenters will politically empower the least reconcilable opponents of same-sex marriage. It will ensure that the issue remains alive, bitter, and deeply divisive.

It is far better to respect the liberty of both sides and let same-sex marriage be implemented with a minimum of confrontation. Let the people of Hawaii see happy, loving, committed same-sex marriages in their midst; let them see (this cannot be helped) that some of those marriages fail, just as many opposite-sex marriages fail; let them see that these same-sex marriages, good and bad, have no effect on opposite-sex marriages. Let the market respond to the obvious economic incentives; same-sex couples will pay good money just like opposite-sex couples. Let same-sex marriage become familiar to the people, and do these things without oppressing religious dissenters in the process. Same-sex marriage will be backed by law, backed by the state, and backed by a large and growing number of private institutions. The number of dissenters will continue to decline, as minds continue to change and as others acquiesce in the new circumstances and in the live-and-let-live traditions of the American people. The number of individuals in business or professional settings who assert their right to conscientious objection will be small in the beginning, and it will plunge still further over time if deprived of the chance to rally around a series of martyrs.

Exemptions for religious conscientious objectors will rarely burden same-sex couples. Few same-sex couples in Hawaii will have to go far to find merchants, professionals, counseling agencies, or any other desired service providers who will cheerfully meet their needs and wants. And same-sex couples will generally be far happier working with a provider who contentedly desires to serve them than with one who believes them to be engaged in mortal sin, and who grudgingly serves them only because of the coercive power of the law. Statutory drafting can provide for the rare cases where these suppositions are not true, such as a same-sex couple on one of the smaller islands that may have reasonably convenient access to only one provider of some secular service. Such cases are no reason to withhold religious

exemptions in the more urban areas where most of the people—and most of the same-sex couples—actually live.

III. Proposed Statutory Language

Another group of scholars, led Professor Edward McGlynn Gaffney, has also submitted testimony. That group includes supporters, opponents, and undecideds on the issue of same-sex marriage. Those of us joining in this statement wanted to be free to emphasize our support for same-sex marriage, so we are testifying separately. Both groups—the supporters, the opponents, and the undecideds—are agreed on the need for more complete religious exemptions.

The Gaffney group's analysis of potential legal conflicts is accurate. Its survey of what other states have enacted is accurate. And it offers carefully drafted statutory language to reconcile same-sex marriage with religious liberty. This statutory language has been refined over the years in light of debates in other states. It anticipates the range of issues likely to arise and addresses them with care, balance, and attention to the essential rights and needs of both same-sex couples and religious conscientious objectors. It should be added to Senate Bill 1, as a substitute for proposed sections 572-E and 572-F.

The Gaffney group's language would protect only religious organizations, religious individuals, and very small businesses that are essentially personal extensions of the individual owner. It would protect individuals and businesses only when some other business is reasonably available to provide the same service. It would not prevent even one same-sex marriage; it would not make same-sex marriages difficult to celebrate or sustain. But it would protect religious liberty—also a constitutional interest and one that is equally important.

At the very least, any bill on same-sex marriage should protect decisions about "recognition" as well as decisions about "solemnization." Proposed section 572-E could be amended as follows:

> 572-E. Refusal to solemnize <u>or recognize</u> a marriage. ~~Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to~~

~~require any~~ Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, no clergy, minister, priest, rabbi, officer of any religious denomination or society, ~~or~~ and no denomination, religious society, or religiously affiliated not-for-profit organization ~~not having clergy but providing solemnizations that is authorized to perform solemnizations pursuant to this chapter~~ shall be required to solemnize or recognize any marriage. No such person who fails or refuses to solemnize or recognize any marriage under this section for any reason shall be subject to any fine, penalty, injunction, administrative proceeding, or other civil liability for the failure or refusal.

The more carefully drafted language in the Gaffney group's testimony would be better for both sides—more protective of religious objectors in some ways, more protective of same-sex couples in other ways. It is more protective of both sides because it more carefully attends to the interests of both sides. That language would be the better solution. But if the Senate chooses to work within the structure of the current bill, the amendments just suggested to section 572-E would be a reasonably workable solution and far better than nothing.

IV. Constitutionality

Some legislators have expressed concern that religious exemptions may be unconstitutional. There is no basis for such a fear.

The emerging law of sexual orientation and same-sex marriage is that *government* may not discriminate against same-sex couples. Nothing in that body of law suggests that government may not also protect religious liberty. The Supreme Court has repeatedly, and unanimously, upheld religious exemptions from regulation against constitutional attack. The most recent example is *Cutter v. Wilkinson*,[1] unanimously upholding the religious exemptions for prisoners required by the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act.[2]

[1] 544 U.S. 709 (2005).
[2] 42 U.S.C. § 2000cc *et seq.* (2006).

More directly relevant here, *Corporation of the Presiding Bishop v. Amos*[3] unanimously upheld a religious exemption from the discrimination laws that lets religious organizations hire and fire on the basis of religion. The Court rejected both an Establishment Clause attack[4] *and* an equal protection attack.[5] "This Court has long recognized that the government may (and sometimes must) accommodate religious practices,"[6] the Court said, and government is free to do so when it acts "with the proper purpose of lifting a regulation that burdens the exercise of religion."[7] The Court's point about legislative purpose is important; the purpose of including religious exemptions is to protect religious liberty. There is no purpose to harm same-sex couples who are granted the right to marry in the same bill. So nothing in the Court's gay-rights cases[8] changes its analysis of religious exemptions to protect the rights of conscience.

An exemption may be unconstitutional if there is no burden on religious exercise to be relieved, or if it imposes significant burdens on third parties. But as *Amos* shows, mere loss of access to employment or other affirmative benefits from a religious organization is not a cognizable burden on others. The regulatory exemptions we have proposed leave same-sex couples free to live their lives without imposing on religious organizations or believers, and leave religious organizations and believers free to live according to their faith by steering clear of same-sex couples, neither affirmatively facilitating their marriages nor affirmatively imposing any burdens on them. The language in the Gaffney group's testimony is carefully drafted to avoid burdens on same-sex couples.

All nine Justices approved of legislative religious exemptions in separate opinions in *Board of Education v. Grumet*,[9] and in

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[3] 483 U.S. 327 (1987).

[4] *Id.* at 334-39.

[5] *Id.* at 338-39.

[6] *Id.* at 334.

[7] *Id.* at 338.

[8] United States v. Windsor, 133 S. Ct. 2675 (2013); Lawrence v. Texas, 539 U.S. 558 (2003); Romer v. Evans, 517 U.S. 620 (1996).

[9] 512 U.S. 687, 705 (1994) (stating that "the Constitution allows the state to accommodate religious needs by alleviating special burdens;" reaffirming

Employment Division v. Smith.[10] And in a case that struck down an exemption because the Court thought there was no burden on religious exercise to be relieved, eight Justices in separate opinions explicitly reaffirmed *Amos*, and the ninth (Justice White) had written the opinion in *Amos*.[11] The Senate would act in the highest constitutional and civil liberties tradition if it authorized same-sex marriage and simultaneously protected religious liberty with respect to those marriages.

V. Conclusion

Enacting the right to same-sex marriage with generous exemptions for religious dissenters is the right thing to do. It respects the right of conscience for all sides. It protects the sexual liberty of same-sex couples and the religious liberty of religious dissenters. It is obviously better for the traditional religious believers; because it creates no martyrs and reduces civil conflict, it is also better for the same-sex couples. Because it is better for both sides, it is better for Hawaii. The language proposed in the Gaffney group's testimony would protect the liberty of both sides. We urge you to add it to Senate Bill 1 or to any other bill on same-sex marriage.

Amos); *id.* at 711-12 (Stevens, J., concurring) (distinguishing the facts of *Grumet* from "a decision to grant an exemption from a burdensome general rule"); *id.* at 716 (O'Connor, J., concurring) ("The Constitution permits '*nondiscriminatory* religious-practice exemption[s]"' (quoting *Employment Division v. Smith*, 494 U.S. 872, 890 (1990) (emphasis by Justice O'Connor, meaning that exemptions cannot discriminate among faiths)); *id.* at 723-24 (Kennedy, J., concurring) (approving *Amos* and similar cases); *id.* at 744 (Scalia, J., dissenting) ("The Court has ... long acknowledged the permissibility of legislative accommodation.").

[10] 494 U.S. 872, 890 (1990) ("a nondiscriminatory religious-practice exemption is permitted"); *id.* at 893-97 (O'Connor, J., dissenting) (arguing that regulatory exemptions are not only permitted, but also constitutionally required).

[11] *See* Texas Monthly, Inc. v. Bullock, 489 U.S. 1, 18 n.8 (plurality opinion) (approving *Amos*); *id.* at 28 (Blackmun, J., concurring) (approving *Amos*); *id.* at 38-40 (Scalia, J., dissenting) (arguing that regulatory and tax exemptions are generally permitted and sometimes required). Justice White's brief concurrence said nothing about the exemption issue one way or the other. *See id.* at 25-26 (White, J., concurring).

At the very least, the bill should protect "recognition" of marriages, and not just "solemnization" of marriages.

Each of us signs this letter in our individual capacities; none of our employers takes a position on the issues we address. We are available to discuss these issues further if that would be of any benefit. Each of our e-mail addresses is in the Appendix.

Appendix

Douglas Laycock is the Robert E. Scott Distinguished Professor of Law and Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. He is also the Alice McKean Young Regents Chair in Law Emeritus at the University of Texas. He may be reached at dlaycock@virginia.edu.

Thomas C. Berg is the James Oberstar Professor of Law and Public Policy at the University of St. Thomas (Minnesota). He may be reached at tcberg@stthomas.edu.

Bruce S. Ledewitz is Professor of Law at Duquesne University. He may be reached at ledewitz@duq.edu.

Christopher C. Lund is Associate Professor of Law at Wayne State University. He may be reached at lund@wayne.edu.

Michael J. Perry is the Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law at Emory University. He may be reached at mjperry@emory.edu.

Kathryn Taketa-Wong
1448 Thurston Avenue #15
Honolulu, HI 96822

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing to **oppose** SB 1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. I have many friends in the LGBTQ (lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/queer) community whom I love and respect, but I ask that they in turn respect my religious beliefs and do not seek to violate my right to religious freedom. I appreciate that the bill was revised to include stronger language to protect religious organizations whose beliefs oppose the solemnization of same sex marriage from litigation. I ask that the committee uphold and protect language in any such bill to preserve the rights of religious freedom of the people which is the foundation of our country.

I oppose SB 1 because:

1. It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
2. It re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage.
3. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits.
4. It extends parentage rights that would transfer Native Hawaiian ethnicity to non-Native Hawaiian individuals.
5. It provides that same-sex couples married in the State, but who do not live in Hawaii, the right to return to Hawaii courts for divorce, annulment and separation proceedings. Hawaii taxpayers will be paying for these costs.
6. It will introduce new educational curriculum for K-12 grades that will present same-sex marriages and relationships to school children and youth.

7. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language “reserve marriage” indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively.
8. Its effective date of November 18, 2013 does not give sufficient time for the State of Hawaii to change processes, policies and practices to abide by the new law and puts the State at risk for lawsuits because it will not be able to comply with the new law.
9. It is fast-tracked through a process that does not offer Neighbor Island individuals the opportunity to present testimony in person.
10. It will not be referred to other appropriate legislative committees who are responsible to the citizens of Hawaii to vet legislation. It should be referred to the following committees: Hawaiian Affairs, Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs, Human Services, Finance. Education and Consumer Protection and Commerce. Citizens and stakeholders will not be able to testify in these committees to inform lawmakers about the far-reaching societal, economic and operational impact of the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.
11. It does not provide a way to finance implementation costs to the State nor individual counties if the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.
12. It excludes other types of couples (ie. related individuals) from legal marriage while granting certain rights and benefits that are presently only available to married couples to them. These couples will have legal standing to challenge the law.

I concur with the following written by Pakela Akaka:

“I ask now for you to think on what it means to grow up in a family based on a traditional marriage. The social aspect of a family that has children growing up with both a mother and a father figure develops understanding of social situations that *cannot* be found in a marriage of the same-sex. As daughters grow up, the qualities they look for in a man usually derive from the example set to them by their fathers, whether ideal or abusive. Fathers are meant to model for their daughter what it is that they should aspire to seek as standard in a man, and vice-versa for sons and their mothers. Now this is not to say that children who grow up in families with single parents never learn these things. I was raised by a single father, and have learned many things by his example of how to/how not to treat women.

According to an article titled “Growing Up With Two Moms: The Untold children’s View”, this man addresses the social difficulties he struggled to learn and deal with because he was confused inside. “My peers learned all the unwritten rules of decorum and body language in their homes; they understood

what was appropriate to say in certain settings and what wasn't; they learned both traditionally masculine and traditionally feminine social mechanisms". He continues by stating that even if the parents of his peers were divorced, they still grew up seeing male and female social models. "They learned to be bold and unflinching from male figures and how to write thank-you cards and be sensitive from female figures". We can all recognize these as stereotypes of course, but he also states how those stereotypes would come in handy when you leave the safety of a household that was different to work and survive in a world with very stereotypical minds, (Lopez, Robert O.). This also is not to say that all children reared in a same-gender parented family are condemned to a life of struggle and hardship of social identity/conformity, but to make it understood that it does make a difference.

What will these things mean for people of Hawaii? My concern is that it may mean many changes, possibly in the form of rules and regulations to be made in the basic standards of a functioning society . . . Passing this law as it is stated will without a doubt bring to pass many more lawsuits in the islands. In states that legalized same sex marriage, public school teachers have already begun to create lessons plans to discuss personal identity, homosexuality, same sex marriages, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender) history and movement. After the passage of the FAIR Education Act in California, public schools are now required to teach about LGBT history starting in elementary school. In California a group of first graders were taken on a field trip to watch their lesbian teacher and her female partner marry at City Hall (Christian Newswire).

My question is: Is Hawaii ready for these changes? And: Shouldn't the people of Hawaii be the ones to decide this?
Now we need to gain an understanding of the situation that our local government is now in. This bill was put into standard session for this year and did not pass. The main reason being that it was seen as "hot potato" passed around the legislature and no one actually wanting to deal with it. The legislature all recognized this bill for what it truly is; an attempt to change the definition of "Marriage" in the state of Hawaii. According to the Defense Against Marriage Act of 1996 (now deemed unconstitutional), Marriage is defined as between a Man and a Woman. In 1998 however, Hawaii adopted a law which voters had at the time believed to have defined marriage as between a man and a woman, when the law in fact stated that the authority to define what constitutes a marriage would be granted to the legislature. This done, when in fact the last thing they voted for was to give the legislature the authority to define marriage as they so desire. Very much aware of this bill not passing in the standard session, and aware of the power of the legislature to grant this bill passage to law (by passage of the amendment of '98), Gov. Neil Abercrombie has called for a *special session* to be held where the legislature and senate would be the ones to decide if this would become law, and NOT THE CITIZENS of this state."

I urge you to vote <u>NO</u> on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Taketa-Wong
Hawaii Voter

To: Office of the Governor
The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers, State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

From: William & Jewel Victorino – Hilo, HI

Dated: October 13, 2013

Re: State of Hawaii Proposed "Marriage Equality Act of 2013"
Request for "NO" vote on this proposed bill.

Dear Governor Abercrombie,

I am a constituent in your district and I would like it to be noted that I have requested your assistance in voting against the proposed State of Hawaii "Marriage Equality Act of 2013."

In reading the proposed legislation I am very concerned about the forceful will that is being placed on the religious organizations in our state. In section, §572-F Refusal to solemnize a marriage, the proposed legislation states: " no such minister, priest, officer of any religious denomination or society, or religious society not having clergy that fails or refuses for any reason to solemnize any marriage under this section shall be subject to any fine, penalty, or other civil action for the failure or refusal."

In the First Amendment to the Bill of Rights it is known that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Therefore I believe that any law that forces any persons to choose between abiding by the laws in our state & having the right to choose to follow their beliefs is having this First Amendment right taken away.

If this law were to pass, I would have to accept any legislation that would not only be against my religion, so to speak, but also go against the rights I have been endowed to me as a lawful citizen of the United States.

I believe that it is a contradiction to change a law that would grant freedom to any person no matter what sex, color; personal or religious beliefs and in turn hinder another's freedom. Therefore, although this new proposed law may help extend entitlements to those in same-sex marriages, it will also take away the ability of those who may have differing beliefs to practice their religion freely; even including being fined or penalized for adhering to their views regarding traditional marriage.

I urge you to please thoroughly study this proposed legislation & consider all the effects that it would have on those who have entrusted you to protect their rights.

Mahalo for your service in preserving the rights of ALL in our beautiful state of Hawaii & thank you for your time & consideration in this matter.

With Respect,

William & Jewel Victorino

Equality is not complicated.

Under state and federal law, each and every one of us is entitled to the same rights, bound to the same responsibilities, as every other citizen. The Constitution of the United States is meant to confer to every American the same protections, to ensure that we all have access to equal opportunities regardless of race, class, national origin - or gender.

There is no qualifying those facts. There is no argument that can undermine the decades and indeed centuries that individuals and organizations and institutions and movements spent fighting against discrimination - a practice that would be propitiously continued by the passing of the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act.

Yet, as it has been in the past, there are those here today who claim that the enforcement of the equality of others infringes on their own rights: various groups often object to the violation of their freedoms that this bill supposedly represents. But it is explicitly stated that this act does not in any way seek to impede personal religious liberties, and any scenario in which same-sex marriages result in unconstitutional regulation of educational practices or religious beliefs are pure conjecture, based solely on either deliberate fabrications or paranoid imaginations.

The Supreme Court of the United States concluded more than fifty years ago, in the legendary case of Brown v. Board, that separating institutions based on discriminatory classifications rendered those institutions “inherently unequal.” Because civil unions and reciprocal beneficiary relationships do not provide the same rights, benefits, protections, or responsibilities as marriages, denying same-sex couples the opportunity to marry in our state represents a blatant violation of their right to equal protection of the law.

More adjacent to this specific issue is the case of Baehr v. Miike that claimed the spotlight in Hawaii’s Supreme Court for most of the 90s. This lawsuit, initiated by three same-sex couples who were denied marriage licenses in our state, provided the impetus for the federal Defense of Marriage Act in 1996. Although the state case was ultimately dismissed by the passing of that twisted national law, the findings of the Commission on Sexual Orientation (created as a result of the trial proceedings), combined with Judge Kevin Chang’s initial decision to prohibit the state from withholding the licences in the first place, provides local historical precedent for the support of same-sex marriage.

Do not mistake my words for a simple demonization of opposing views. Do not judge me by my youth or my dress or my happily ambiguous sexuality. I am simply a person trying to reach other people. I am simply a person with views. I have a voice, and I intend to use it.

It is sad to me that such elementary ideas should need to be restated, but until marriage equality has been ensured, I must question the common sense of society.

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marraige because of our heartfelt concern and compassion for the future of our state. I concern over the physical, mental and emotional problems that will beset those who choose the homosexual lifestyle, and I object to what this will do to our community, my children and to my traditional family life. Evidence clearly show that children must be raised in a traditional family environment to thrive and to grow.

In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marriage because Same Sex Marriage violates Chinese Tradition.

American Chinese are very serious about family. We tell the youth that taking care the elderlies in the family is their duty. We finance businesses through family. We borrow money to buy properties through family. We obtain the best education through family.

We know from our hearts that we need love from father and mother, so we apply the same to others. Our children need love from their father and mother as we do.

Same Sex Marriage bill is going to destroy Chinese tradition. We want our local boys and girls know that rearing family biologically is the best. We want to give the best to our future.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Rosemary Summers
963 Holoholo St. Kailua, HI 96734

Dear Representative _____,

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to serving our wonderful country. I'm writing to inform you of my family's opposition to the same sex marriage bill. I understand that we as people in the United States are to be treated fairly and equally. However, making same sex marriages legal in the state of Hawaii changes the nature of what a family is. Marriage is to be between one man and one woman. There is no other way. I have three children all under the age of five and don't want them to grow up in a time when men can marry men and women marry women. Your vote in favor of this bill will allow the young children growing up in this generation to witness such a thing that is unnatural. If this is allowed in every state, our entire country will be consumed with this type of lifestyle, which would only lead to problems later on in the future.

I plead and ask you to reconsider your vote. Your vote will affect a multitude of people. Yes, I understand that there are others in favor to this bill and it seems that those in favor are in the lead but your vote still matters. Even if it is still passed you can honestly say that you did what you could do to stop something like this from happening and did not sign your name to something that could possible change our country forever. I hope that you find it in your heart to vote against something that is so unbiblical. Thank you so much for your consideration in this serious matter.

"For this reason God game them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error." ***Romans 1:26-27***

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

The biggest issues I have with Bill SB1 are the threat to our society by changing the definition of marriage as well as the undermining of the Democratic process by putting this issue to special session.

I recognize that same-sex attraction exists and that heterosexual individuals should be treated with love and respect. This does not however mean that they should be allowed to be married under the same laws as a man and a woman. I believe marriage to be correctly defined as a union between a man and a woman as it has been for thousands of years.

Recognizing marriage between same-sex couples will have a profound impact on our culture and society. The effects are far-reaching and will go beyond just the heterosexual couples involved. Children will be the greatest casualties by being denied the opportunity to be raised in homes by a mother and father. Our society will face more problems than it currently faces if Bill SB1 is passed.

In 1998 the people of this state voted and decided that legal marriage should be reserved for opposite-sex couples. I am asking you to again allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I am opposed to one of the most contentious social issues in our history being decided virtually in one week and by only those who hold office. I ask that you uphold the principles of democracy which are being disregarded by putting this Bill SB1 to special session.

The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousands of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Rebecca Stoner

Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

PRIDE ALLIANCE
Hawai'i

October 26, 2013

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Pride Alliance Hawai‘i (PAH) is submitting this testimony in strong support of SB 1.

PAH is a non-profit organization focused on issues of equality beginning with equality for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community and with the ultimate goal of equality for all. We are dedicated to raising awareness about discrimination in Hawai‘i and taking positive action to end it through community outreach and education, such as talk-story, educational programs, public demonstrations, and inclusive social events. We seek to work collaboratively with like-minded individuals and organizations committed to social, racial, and economic justice.

Our 300 members represent the diversity of the state of Hawai‘i and all are in support of marriage equality. With the US Supreme Court’s overturning of key provisions of DOMA however, every day that goes by without marriage equality in Hawai‘i is a day our members, and others in the state, are left vulnerable and less secure than their heterosexual colleagues. While the IRS has created policies to allow for all legally married same-sex couples to file taxes jointly, there are more than 1,100 other rights and protections under federal law that are only available to married couples who’s marriages are legally recognized in their home states. Civil Unions are not recognized as marriage under federal law. Lacking the right to legally marry in Hawai‘i, same-sex couples must leave their home to obtain a legal marriage to receive any federal rights and protections. Even after they have unfairly expended extra money, time and effort not required of heterosexual couples, same-sex couples legally married in another state are still ineligible for most federal rights and protections because their home state of Hawai‘i currently recognizes their legal marriage as a Civil Union.

We ask that you show strong leadership in addressing this injustice by passing SB 1.

Mahalo nui for your continued commitment to represent the needs of the citizens of Hawai‘i.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors, Pride Alliance Hawai‘i

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony for bill SB1 because I passionately care about my beloved state and home, Hawai'i. I have lived in Hawai'i for the past 40 years. I attended local Catholic grade and high school and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo for my undergraduate work. I am a high school English teacher and have been teaching our keiki for the past 22 years. I am writing you today to urge you not to pass the same-sex marriage bill.

The democracy you have the privilege of being an integral part of and of which we in this country and state so lavishly enjoy is based upon Christian principles and the ideas of our founding fathers who were unabashedly Christian. For instance, the first president of the United States, George Washington, stated, "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly implore His protection and favor."

When we study Washington's life, we understand he was a man of unshakable integrity who sought God's help and who supernaturally received it. We would not say his ideas are radical, but today, a local Christians like Bishop Silva, who is simply living out the precepts of his faith, is being persecuted in our local newspaper because he is upholding the faith he has devoted his life to. And this is before the bill has even passed.

The same-sex marriage issue is a moral issue. Today, the greatest lack of understanding among our leaders is their lack of valuing morality. Morality cannot be relevant to the times, otherwise it is a nebulous morality based upon your and my whims. The great composer Tchaikovsky once stated, "It is only those with boundaries who are truly free." Passing same-sex marriage in Hawai'i is abolishing a moral boundary that has upheld not only our state but our nation since its inception. Passing the same-sex bill will just be the beginning of undoing moral boundaries, and it is utterly naive to think it will not. One boundary down, then another, then another, until this nation and our state are amoral and immoral because our leaders did not care about morality!

John Adams the very individual who enabled the Declaration of Independence to be established and who is a central founding figure of our democracy said, "the safety and prosperity of the nations ultimately and essentially depend on the protection and blessing of Almighty God..." and "the national acknowledgement of His truth is an indispensable duty which the people owe to Him."

"The national acknowledgement of His truth, " John Adams declared, not our own truth. Would you say John Adams was short-sighted and without wisdom? Would you say His faith was fruitless? Or, after studying his life and words and the fruit of his labors, would you not say perhaps he spoke truths that are worthy of heeding?

We cannot wander so far away from the cornerstone of our founding father's ideas and expect to enjoy the same freedoms and prosperity that very society produced. We cannot make up our own moral boundaries and expect that the same freedoms those founding boundaries produced will remain. If you leave the foundation, expect the crumbling.

And what of the writings of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and even our own wise monarchs of Hawai'i, King Kamehameha, Kalaukaua, Queen Kaahumanu, and Liliuokalani? Would you call them short-sighted, or wise rulers with integrity who followed the precepts of an unshakable moral book?

Same-sex couples want a new right, not an equal right. Today they have the same right as I, to marry within the boundaries our founding fathers established, according to the moral principles the bible upholds. To say the bible is irrelevant and "only" a book that fanatics cling to, is to say our founding fathers and former monarchs were misguided and shallow-minded as well. But we know, that is not the case. And, it is not the case today as well.

Please senators and representatives, I urge you to give pause, to study the history of the government you represent, to completely know and understand its heart and lifeblood BEFORE you irreparably begin to dismantle our beloved and most cherished and beautiful paradise, Hawai'i: "Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I ka Pono."

Mahalo Nui!

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony for bill SB1 because I passionately care about my beloved state and home, Hawai'i. I have lived in Hawai'i for the past 40 years. I attended local Catholic grade and high school and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo for my undergraduate work. I am a high school English teacher and have been teaching our keiki for the past 22 years. I am writing you today to urge you not to pass the same-sex marriage bill.

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When we study Washington's life, we understand he was a man of unshakable integrity who sought God's help and who supernaturally received it. We would not say his ideas are radical, but today, a local Christians like Bishop Silva, who is simply living out the precepts of his faith, is being persecuted in our local newspaper because he is upholding the faith he has devoted his life to. And this is before the bill has even passed.

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Please senators and representatives, I urge you to give pause, to study the history of the government you represent, to completely know and understand its heart and lifeblood BEFORE you irreparably begin to dismantle our beloved and most cherished and beautiful paradise, Hawai'i: "Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I ka Pono."

Mahalo Nui!

Attention: Hawaii State Legislator

I would like to share my concerns regarding the upcoming special legislative session to move forward on a bill for marriage equality in Hawaii. I oppose this bill. I strongly feel that if this bill passes individuals who strongly believe in traditional marriage, their religious freedoms taken away. Three reasons why I oppose this bill

1. This bill is contrary to the fundamental religious beliefs that I have...
    a. I strongly believe marriage is between a man and a woman.
2. This bill redefines marriage and harmful to children, families and society.
    a. Marriage unites a man and a woman into a partnership strengthened by both the attributes of both genders.
    b. Throughout society, the purpose of marriage has always been to help ensure children have a mother and father.
        i. Numerous studies over decades establish children develop best when raised by a father and mother in a stable marriage relationship.
        ii. With this not in place, communities experience increases in every category of child-development problems, such as depression, drug abuse, teenage pregnancies, school dropout rates and crime and is a huge social cost.
    c. Redefining marriage to include same-sex couples will change the focus of marriage from ensuring children is cared for by his father and mother to accommodating relationships. When the focus of marriage is no longer on children, rather on adults, the protections of children erodes and society will suffer. This is already happening with the increase of divorce rates and will worsen further with same-sex marriage. Let's protect the children; they are our future leaders, workers, and community members of our tomorrow for our country.
3. Redefining marriage reduces religious freedom and redefining to include same-sex couples, enormous legal and social pressure will be against churches and religious people who believe in traditional marriages. Problems will arise such as;
    a. Schools will teach a new definition to marriage and children who believe in traditional marriages face situations of correction, their comments or ostracized.
    b. Lawsuits have in other states and brought against individuals, small business, marriage counselors, churches, and their related organizations that refuse to support same-sex marriages on religious grounds.
        i. According to an article in the Wall Street Journal[1] lists several situations where business that's religious belief is on the traditional marriage were not being supported by our Constitutions right to religious freedom. These businesses had law suits against them for denying service for same-sex marriages either with flowers, photos taken or for performing marriages.
        ii. Religious groups providing family related services, such as adaption will be loose their State licenses for not providing the same service to same-sex couples as they would for couple in traditional marriages
        iii. With all of this, society will view and treat those who support traditional marriages for religious reasons as ignorant or bigoted.

[1] Hemingway, Mollie Ziegler. "Gay Marriages Collides With Religious Liberty" *The Wall Street Journal l* pg A-13. 09/20/2013

It is not right and constitutional that same-sex couples can strip me and other individuals who strongly believe in a traditional marriage for our religious beliefs. Our Founding Fathers established in the United States Constitution enabling United States Citizens the ability to have religious freedom.

According the United States Constitution, The First Amendment (Amendment 1) (1791) states:

> "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."[2]

- The First Amendment: the Establishment Clause (1791) states:

  > At minimum, the Establishment Clause prevents Congress from establishing a national religion or a national church. The Clause is also invoked to prevent government from endorsing a religion, from helping or hurting a particular religion, or from becoming excessively entangled with religion."[3]

- First Amendment: Free Exercise Clause (1791) states:

  > "This clause protects an absolute freedom of belief. The Founders saw religious liberty as a natural right, and so the First Amendment ensures that all people have an equality of rights to practice their faith. While originally written to apply to actions of the federal government, it was incorporated into state governments through the Fourteenth Amendment by the Supreme Court in the case ***Cantwell v. Connecticut*** (1940)."[4]

- The Fourteenth Amendment XIV Section 1 (1868) states:

  > "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."[5]

The above Amendments provide citizens of the State of Hawaii with our rights and freedoms to practice our religious beliefs. Each individual has his or her own standards and beliefs. This bill will compromise individual's religious beliefs, standards, values, and freedoms.

This bill should never take away religious rights of any individual. Individuals have the right to deny services and or products to others based on individual's religious beliefs and standards. I strongly urge you to consider all that I shared with you. I ask you to consider what I have stated. I urge you to oppose this bill!

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[3] http://billofrightsinstitute.org/resources/educator-resources/americapedia/americapedia-bill-of-rights/first-amendment/establishment-clause/

[4] http://billofrightsinstitute.org/resources/educator-resources/americapedia/americapedia-bill-of-rights/first-amendment/free-exercise-clause/

[5] http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_amendments_11-27.html

<u>For the Senate hearing</u>: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any same-sex marriage issue.

Same-sex marriage is not a civil right. No court (including the United States Supreme Court) has ever said that same-sex marriage is civil right. In 2002, the **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** rejected the complaint that New Zealand banned same-sex marriage violating civil right.

It is my opinion that the issue of same-sex marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same-sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people.

Please let the people decide on marriage.

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair and Members of the
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Subject: S.B. 1
Hearing Date: October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol Auditorium

Dear Honorable Chair Clayton Hee and Committee Members:

This letter is my written testimony in strong opposition of S.B. 1 and in favor of traditional marriage. Marriage is a unity between a man and a woman. In the name of Family, same-sex marriage serves to validate, not only such unions, but a homosexual in all its bisexual and transgender variants.

Legal recognition of same-sex marriage would obscure certain basic moral values, devalue traditional marriage and weaken public morality. What would it do in our schools? The public schools will have to teach children that this perversion is equivalent to marriage between a man and a woman. Will textbooks and illustrations in public schools and public areas have to show man/man and woman/woman relationships to give equal space to homosexuals? Have you considered the consequences and long-term effects of same-sex marriage on our society?

I, therefore, ask that this bill not be passed and instead you allow the people of the State of Hawaii vote on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

/s/Stevette Kaaihue

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marriage because Same Sex Marriage violates Chinese Tradition.

American Chinese are very serious about family. We tell the youth that taking care the elderlies in the family is their duty. We finance businesses through family. We borrow money to buy properties through family. We obtain the best education through family.

We know from our hearts that we need love from father and mother, so we apply the same to others. Our children need love from their father and mother as we do.

Same Sex Marriage bill is going to destroy Chinese tradition. We want our local boys and girls know that rearing family biologically is the best. We want to give the best to our future.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

Jarrell James Mahusay
94-543 Lumiaina Street #U201
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

I Vote **NO** to Senate Bill 1, authorizing same-sex marriage.

I am Christian and a former Naval Submarine Officer, who diligently served our country for 4 years. I currently manage a non-profit organization, Reveille Hawaii, aimed at connecting military members with the Hawaiian community. Our goal is to help with the epidemic of homelessness, drugs, and the needs of the Hawaiian people, through volunteerism, fund raising, and grateful hearts.

I am affected directly by this bill because of 3 reasons: It prohibits my core beliefs and my faith, which I have practiced all my life. It denies me my civil rights to choose, by vote, to disallow this bill. This bill also affects my livelihood and my ability to act upon my faith.

I have practiced Christianity since my birth on May 15, 1981. My family has practiced Christianity for generations dating back to our origins in the Philippines. My belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior requires us to live in such a way that we honor Him with the choices I make. Homosexuality is considered a Sin; not unlike drug abuse or alcoholism, all of which are defined by the Bible as immoral and should not be encouraged according to my faith practice. Same-sex marriage will significantly impact my ability to profess my faith through daily life as well as the lives of my future children by forcing my family to choose to follow the teachings of my God or to follow the law by condoning homosexuality. I will not and cannot follow any law that would be contrary to my beliefs as my resolve to follow my God and His teachings will supersede any law that maybe enacted. In spite of any decision by legislation, I will continue to live peacefully before all people regardless of their decision towards sexual orientation but I am incapable of recognizing any marriage not between a man and a woman. Marriage has been defined since ancient times as the union of a man and a woman, and whose purpose is the capacity to produce life naturally. Marriage has always been characterized by biblical terms, between man and woman, since the age of the Hawaiian kingdom. Hawaii must maintain a separation of church and state by denying passage of Senate Bill 1; marriage has always been a church institution regardless of faith background and is only recognized by the state through taxation purposes. For these reasons I must comply with the mandates by my God to proclude my faith and cannot endorse same-sex marriage.

This bill infringes my right to vote as defined by Amendment 18 of the U.S. Constitution. Although a previous bill permits the legislative body of the state of Hawaii to decide the validity of same-sex marriage, a bill whose affects of this magnitude should not be decided by an in accurate, and extremely small sample size of the state population represented only by a handful of legislative representatives. A vote of the people of Hawaii must be required in order to prove the desire of the

people to support this bill. Through the interactions of my non-profit organization and the Hawaiian people, I have determines that a cultural frustration of the people is the constant silencing of their voice and rights. This bill further exemplifies the neglect of the people to choose for themselves their desired course of governance. As a new and permanent resident of Hawaii for 3 years, I desire a chance to voice my vote and to vote no on this bill. Do not deny the people their voice, history has taught us that those who support the wishes of the people and their ability to choose are beloved and remembered, while those who deny the peoples right to choose are ostracized and culpable.

This bill directly affects my livelihood and the practice of my faith. My non-profit organization is based on Biblical principles, the act of giving, serving, comforting, and love towards all people regardless of race, creed, or sexual orientation. In conjunction with these principles are the directives to uphold morality as defined by the Bible, which include but are not limited to abuse prevention, poverty, as well as homosexuality. I am not able to carry out my duties as a Christian and a human being, to provide the quality of volunteerism, support, and care deserving of the people of Hawaii. God cannot use me effectively due to the prohibitions stated in Senate Bill 1. I should not be forced to choose between condoning homosexuality and following the commandments of my God. There are people who are indifferent to homosexuality and therefore may provide the services required of the LGBT community. Just as a customer has the ability to choose which business they want to purchase goods and services, retailers and service providers, whether profit or non-profit, should be able to determine morally what they determine to be right based on ancient and long standing principles. Today's capitalist society allows the consumer the right to determine whether a business survives or fails; if a place of business decides to uphold their Biblically moral beliefs and their belief is that the LGBT lifestyle is morally reprehensible then let their success or failure be determined by the patronage of the consumer and not by a law that has condemned them without the verdict of the consumer. Some may compare the disapproval of the LGBT lifestyle to racism, but LGBT is a lifestyle and not an intrinsic characteristic of a person such as their skin color. Just the same as no person is forced to accept a religion as a lifestyle, so should no person be forced to accept the LGBT lifestyle.

In conclusion, as a Christian and a contributing member of the Hawaiian people, I vote No to Senate Bill 1. This bill disagrees with the core of my faith which is also a lifestyle. It disagrees with my rights as a citizen of not only the United States but also as a citizen of Hawaii. It also disagrees with my livelihood and my ability to make a positive impact on the community. Finally, in Christianity, Jesus Christ was condemned to death by the Israelites, but because of their traditions, they were barred from making the decision to act upon His crucifixion. The people implored the help of the Roman governor Pontius Pilate to make the decision necessary to condemn Jesus to death. Pontius Pilate refused 3 times and finally he dipped his hands in water to symbolize that the blood of Jesus, an innocent man, would be on their hands and allowed the execution to take place. In the same way, hold yourself blameless for the decisions of the people. Allow the people of Hawaii to make this

choice because this will affect generations to come and you as legislators will walk amongst the people guiltless because you gave the people their vote and their rights. As our Leaders, in accordance with 2 Timothy 4:1-2, I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, Who will judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient, convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

October 27, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

Redefining marriage will mostly affects the minority of Hawai'i residents who identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian, but it could change society for those Hawai'i residents who hold strong and believe in their constitutional rights to protect religion. The wording of this Bill will force churches and religious entities that oppose same sex marriage on moral grounds to have these services conducted within their halls. This undermines the very **Constitution** and should **NOT** be decided in a special session but should be brought before the people. Many churches do open their doors to their communities to assist in better the community and providing a place for community functions. During these times the churches do not "preach" to the community so why is it that this Bill will **DEMAND** that any church opening its doors to community organizations must allow same sex marriages to be performed. If this is a state decision to legalize same sex marriage then such services should be limited to state or county buildings and **NOT** churches. This Bill will force many churches to close their doors to the community which will in turn hurt the community.

This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE**!

If the majority of people in Hawai'i feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it is important that **sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon**. Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
William Guest
PO Box 711894
Mountain View, HI 96771

For Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor
Monday, 10/28/13 at 10:30AM
SB 1 Relating to Equality

ONLY WRITTEN TESTIMONY in Opposition to SB1 Relating To Equality – From Concerned Citizens of Kalihi, Foster Village, Salt Lake, Pearl City, Waianae, …

TO: Honorable Chair Hee, Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Labor, As Well As All Legislators Who Still Consider Passing this Bill.

It is with great sadness and disappointment that we write- having to take the time, money and effort again to write you about this issue. Why is this Bill SB 1 being considered? Why is this issue of same sex rights re-visited AGAIN? Didn't the gay advocates receive their reciprocal beneficiary benefits? Didn't the gay advocates strongly say they were not seeking for the marriage status?

Same Sex Advocates cannot use the word Marriage for their union, BECAUSE THEY DO NOT QUALIFY. HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH FAIRNESS, BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO QUALIFY. MAN AND WOMAN QUALIFIES AS A MARRIAGE -2MEN OR 2WOMEN DO NOT QUALIFY AS A MARRIAGE.

SIMPLE MATH
Same Sex Union Is NOT THE SAME as Marriage, which means :
The Same Sex Marriage Bill IS A SHAM
2Men DOES NOT EQUAL A Man& AWoman
2Women DOES NOT EQUAL AWoman& AMan
It's that simple

A same sex couple is called a gay couple or homosexual couple, etc., But now they are also called a 'Civil Union', because some Legislators gave it to them. So that is also what they are called. A Civil Union. Period.

People should not be allowed to take something that is Sacred:Marriage(Male&FemaleCouple) and change it into something Indecent:(Same SexCouple). MARRIAGE is not just a word randomly made up. This word was ordained for a MAN & WOMAN union .

Like parents - If you are a parent, trying to raise kids to do what is right, and if they keep nagging you for things they shouldn't have…Are you going to keep giving them more of what they shouldn't have? When you truly Love your kids, don't you discipline and set boundaries for them by saying NO?
If you truly Love them.

Marriage means Man & Woman union. That's the boundary. When the Civil Union Bill passed, it opened the boundaries. PLEASE DON'T ALLOW THEM TO CROSS OVER THE BOUNDARIES. BY REJECTING THIS SSM BILL, YOU KEEP THOSE BOUNDARIES IN PLACE.

MEANING OF MARRIAGE IS : MAN & WOMAN UNION…….PERIOD……..SIMPLE
EVERYONE SHOULD RESPECT AND UPHOLD THIS UNION

<u>QUESTIONS LEGISLATORS NEED TO ANSWER</u>

1. The Civil Unions Bill was passed – Why are you even considering this SB 1 Bill?

2. Legislators are there, because we cannot. Legislators represent us. You are there to preserve and upkeep traditional values, things that are good, decent, honorable, morally right. You are there to protect us. Are you representing us? Are you going to protect us?

3. Legislators are there to establish laws that promote order, decency, create boundaries to live orderly and decent lives, without taking away basic rights of other people. The SSM bill promotes Lawlessness. Do you want to promote Lawlessness?

4. (Not counting those legislators participating in a same sex relationship) When you think about 2women together, or 2men together – How do you feel or think? Can you honestly say you don't have any uncomfortable feelings or thoughts about this kind of relationship?

The definition of marriage varies from person to person; however, the constitutionality of marriage leaves little room for debate. The fourteenth amendment of the Constitution states that "no state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States...nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." This amendment includes the Equal Protection Clause which provides that no state shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. Although the amendment was originally intended to protect the rights of African Americans, it can be extended to include all citizens, meaning same-sex couples as well as gay couples. As citizens of the United States, gay couples reserve the right to the same protections granted to opposite-sex couples. By discriminating against gay marriage, we are stripping away their fundamental rights as citizens which contradicts the U.S. Constitution and every civil rights movement fought for in the course of our nation's history. We must learn from our country's past mistakes, and by banning same-sex marriage, we are taking a step back as a nation.

Myla Pereira

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marraige because of our heartfelt concern and compassion for the future of our state. I concern over the physical, mental and emotional problems that will beset those who choose the homosexual lifestyle, and I object to what this will do to our community, my children and to my traditional family life. Evidence clearly show that children must be raised in a traditional family environment to thrive and to grow.

In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marriage because Same Sex Marriage violates Chinese Tradition.

American Chinese are very serious about family. We tell the youth that taking care the elderlies in the family is their duty. We finance businesses through family. We borrow money to buy properties through family. We obtain the best education through family.

We know from our hearts that we need love from father and mother, so we apply the same to others. Our children need love from their father and mother as we do.

Same Sex Marriage bill is going to destroy Chinese tradition. We want our local boys and girls know that rearing family biologically is the best. We want to give the best to our future.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Rosemary Summers
963 Holoholo St. Kailua, HI 96734

Dear Representative _____,

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to serving our wonderful country. I'm writing to inform you of my family's opposition to the same sex marriage bill. I understand that we as people in the United States are to be treated fairly and equally. However, making same sex marriages legal in the state of Hawaii changes the nature of what a family is. Marriage is to be between one man and one woman. There is no other way. I have three children all under the age of five and don't want them to grow up in a time when men can marry men and women marry women. Your vote in favor of this bill will allow the young children growing up in this generation to witness such a thing that is unnatural. If this is allowed in every state, our entire country will be consumed with this type of lifestyle, which would only lead to problems later on in the future.

I plead and ask you to reconsider your vote. Your vote will affect a multitude of people. Yes, I understand that there are others in favor to this bill and it seems that those in favor are in the lead but your vote still matters. Even if it is still passed you can honestly say that you did what you could do to stop something like this from happening and did not sign your name to something that could possible change our country forever. I hope that you find it in your heart to vote against something that is so unbiblical. Thank you so much for your consideration in this serious matter.

"For this reason God game them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error." ***Romans 1:26-27***

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

The biggest issues I have with Bill SB1 are the threat to our society by changing the definition of marriage as well as the undermining of the Democratic process by putting this issue to special session.

I recognize that same-sex attraction exists and that heterosexual individuals should be treated with love and respect. This does not however mean that they should be allowed to be married under the same laws as a man and a woman. I believe marriage to be correctly defined as a union between a man and a woman as it has been for thousands of years.

Recognizing marriage between same-sex couples will have a profound impact on our culture and society. The effects are far-reaching and will go beyond just the heterosexual couples involved. Children will be the greatest casualties by being denied the opportunity to be raised in homes by a mother and father. Our society will face more problems than it currently faces if Bill SB1 is passed.

In 1998 the people of this state voted and decided that legal marriage should be reserved for opposite-sex couples. I am asking you to again allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I am opposed to one of the most contentious social issues in our history being decided virtually in one week and by only those who hold office. I ask that you uphold the principles of democracy which are being disregarded by putting this Bill SB1 to special session.

The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousands of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Rebecca Stoner

Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

PRIDE ALLIANCE
Hawai'i

October 26, 2013

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Pride Alliance Hawai‘i (PAH) is submitting this testimony in strong support of SB 1.

PAH is a non-profit organization focused on issues of equality beginning with equality for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community and with the ultimate goal of equality for all. We are dedicated to raising awareness about discrimination in Hawai‘i and taking positive action to end it through community outreach and education, such as talk-story, educational programs, public demonstrations, and inclusive social events. We seek to work collaboratively with like-minded individuals and organizations committed to social, racial, and economic justice.

Our 300 members represent the diversity of the state of Hawai‘i and all are in support of marriage equality. With the US Supreme Court’s overturning of key provisions of DOMA however, every day that goes by without marriage equality in Hawai‘i is a day our members, and others in the state, are left vulnerable and less secure than their heterosexual colleagues. While the IRS has created policies to allow for all legally married same-sex couples to file taxes jointly, there are more than 1,100 other rights and protections under federal law that are only available to married couples who’s marriages are legally recognized in their home states. Civil Unions are not recognized as marriage under federal law. Lacking the right to legally marry in Hawai‘i, same-sex couples must leave their home to obtain a legal marriage to receive any federal rights and protections. Even after they have unfairly expended extra money, time and effort not required of heterosexual couples, same-sex couples legally married in another state are still ineligible for most federal rights and protections because their home state of Hawai‘i currently recognizes their legal marriage as a Civil Union.

We ask that you show strong leadership in addressing this injustice by passing SB 1.

Mahalo nui for your continued commitment to represent the needs of the citizens of Hawai‘i.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors, Pride Alliance Hawai‘i

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony for bill SB1 because I passionately care about my beloved state and home, Hawai'i. I have lived in Hawai'i for the past 40 years. I attended local Catholic grade and high school and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo for my undergraduate work. I am a high school English teacher and have been teaching our keiki for the past 22 years. I am writing you today to urge you not to pass the same-sex marriage bill.

The democracy you have the privilege of being an integral part of and of which we in this country and state so lavishly enjoy is based upon Christian principles and the ideas of our founding fathers who were unabashedly Christian. For instance, the first president of the United States, George Washington, stated, "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly implore His protection and favor."

When we study Washington's life, we understand he was a man of unshakable integrity who sought God's help and who supernaturally received it. We would not say his ideas are radical, but today, a local Christians like Bishop Silva, who is simply living out the precepts of his faith, is being persecuted in our local newspaper because he is upholding the faith he has devoted his life to. And this is before the bill has even passed.

The same-sex marriage issue is a moral issue. Today, the greatest lack of understanding among our leaders is their lack of valuing morality. Morality cannot be relevant to the times, otherwise it is a nebulous morality based upon your and my whims. The great composer Tchaikovsky once stated, "It is only those with boundaries who are truly free." Passing same-sex marriage in Hawai'i is abolishing a moral boundary that has upheld not only our state but our nation since its inception. Passing the same-sex bill will just be the beginning of undoing moral boundaries, and it is utterly naive to think it will not. One boundary down, then another, then another, until this nation and our state are amoral and immoral because our leaders did not care about morality!

John Adams the very individual who enabled the Declaration of Independence to be established and who is a central founding figure of our democracy said, "the safety and prosperity of the nations ultimately and essentially depend on the protection and blessing of Almighty God..." and "the national acknowledgement of His truth is an indispensable duty which the people owe to Him."

"The national acknowledgement of His truth, " John Adams declared, not our own truth. Would you say John Adams was short-sighted and without wisdom? Would you say His faith was fruitless? Or, after studying his life and words and the fruit of his labors, would you not say perhaps he spoke truths that are worthy of heeding?

We cannot wander so far away from the cornerstone of our founding father's ideas and expect to enjoy the same freedoms and prosperity that very society produced. We cannot make up our own moral boundaries and expect that the same freedoms those founding boundaries produced will remain. If you leave the foundation, expect the crumbling.

And what of the writings of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and even our own wise monarchs of Hawai'i, King Kamehameha, Kalaukaua, Queen Kaahumanu, and Liliuokalani? Would you call them short-sighted, or wise rulers with integrity who followed the precepts of an unshakable moral book?

Same-sex couples want a new right, not an equal right. Today they have the same right as I, to marry within the boundaries our founding fathers established, according to the moral principles the bible upholds. To say the bible is irrelevant and "only" a book that fanatics cling to, is to say our founding fathers and former monarchs were misguided and shallow-minded as well. But we know, that is not the case. And, it is not the case today as well.

Please senators and representatives, I urge you to give pause, to study the history of the government you represent, to completely know and understand its heart and lifeblood BEFORE you irreparably begin to dismantle our beloved and most cherished and beautiful paradise, Hawai'i: "Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I ka Pono."

Mahalo Nui!

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony for bill SB1 because I passionately care about my beloved state and home, Hawai'i. I have lived in Hawai'i for the past 40 years. I attended local Catholic grade and high school and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo for my undergraduate work. I am a high school English teacher and have been teaching our keiki for the past 22 years. I am writing you today to urge you not to pass the same-sex marriage bill.

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When we study Washington's life, we understand he was a man of unshakable integrity who sought God's help and who supernaturally received it. We would not say his ideas are radical, but today, a local Christians like Bishop Silva, who is simply living out the precepts of his faith, is being persecuted in our local newspaper because he is upholding the faith he has devoted his life to. And this is before the bill has even passed.

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"The national acknowledgement of His truth, " John Adams declared, not our own truth. Would you say John Adams was short-sighted and without wisdom? Would you say His faith was fruitless? Or, after studying his life and words and the fruit of his labors, would you not say perhaps he spoke truths that are worthy of heeding?

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And what of the writings of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and even our own wise monarchs of Hawai'i, King Kamehameha, Kalaukaua, Queen Kaahumanu, and Liliuokalani? Would you call them short-sighted, or wise rulers with integrity who followed the precepts of an unshakable moral book?

Same-sex couples want a new right, not an equal right. Today they have the same right as I, to marry within the boundaries our founding fathers established, according to the moral principles the bible upholds. To say the bible is irrelevant and "only" a book that fanatics cling to, is to say our founding fathers and former monarchs were misguided and shallow-minded as well. But we know, that is not the case. And, it is not the case today as well.

Please senators and representatives, I urge you to give pause, to study the history of the government you represent, to completely know and understand its heart and lifeblood BEFORE you irreparably begin to dismantle our beloved and most cherished and beautiful paradise, Hawai'i: "Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I ka Pono."

Mahalo Nui!

Attention: Hawaii State Legislator

I would like to share my concerns regarding the upcoming special legislative session to move forward on a bill for marriage equality in Hawaii. I oppose this bill. I strongly feel that if this bill passes individuals who strongly believe in traditional marriage, their religious freedoms taken away. Three reasons why I oppose this bill

1. This bill is contrary to the fundamental religious beliefs that I have...
    a. I strongly believe marriage is between a man and a woman.
2. This bill redefines marriage and harmful to children, families and society.
    a. Marriage unites a man and a woman into a partnership strengthened by both the attributes of both genders.
    b. Throughout society, the purpose of marriage has always been to help ensure children have a mother and father.
        i. Numerous studies over decades establish children develop best when raised by a father and mother in a stable marriage relationship.
        ii. With this not in place, communities experience increases in every category of child-development problems, such as depression, drug abuse, teenage pregnancies, school dropout rates and crime and is a huge social cost.
    c. Redefining marriage to include same-sex couples will change the focus of marriage from ensuring children is cared for by his father and mother to accommodating relationships. When the focus of marriage is no longer on children, rather on adults, the protections of children erodes and society will suffer. This is already happening with the increase of divorce rates and will worsen further with same-sex marriage. Let's protect the children; they are our future leaders, workers, and community members of our tomorrow for our country.
3. Redefining marriage reduces religious freedom and redefining to include same-sex couples, enormous legal and social pressure will be against churches and religious people who believe in traditional marriages. Problems will arise such as;
    a. Schools will teach a new definition to marriage and children who believe in traditional marriages face situations of correction, their comments or ostracized.
    b. Lawsuits have in other states and brought against individuals, small business, marriage counselors, churches, and their related organizations that refuse to support same-sex marriages on religious grounds.
        i. According to an article in the Wall Street Journal[1] lists several situations where business that's religious belief is on the traditional marriage were not being supported by our Constitutions right to religious freedom. These businesses had law suits against them for denying service for same-sex marriages either with flowers, photos taken or for performing marriages.
        ii. Religious groups providing family related services, such as adaption will be loose their State licenses for not providing the same service to same-sex couples as they would for couple in traditional marriages
        iii. With all of this, society will view and treat those who support traditional marriages for religious reasons as ignorant or bigoted.

[1] Hemingway, Mollie Ziegler. "Gay Marriages Collides With Religious Liberty" *The Wall Street Journal l* pg A-13. 09/20/2013

It is not right and constitutional that same-sex couples can strip me and other individuals who strongly believe in a traditional marriage for our religious beliefs. Our Founding Fathers established in the United States Constitution enabling United States Citizens the ability to have religious freedom.

According the United States Constitution, The First Amendment (Amendment 1) (1791) states:

> "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."[2]

- The First Amendment: the Establishment Clause (1791) states:

  > At minimum, the Establishment Clause prevents Congress from establishing a national religion or a national church. The Clause is also invoked to prevent government from endorsing a religion, from helping or hurting a particular religion, or from becoming excessively entangled with religion."[3]

- First Amendment: Free Exercise Clause (1791) states:

  > "This clause protects an absolute freedom of belief. The Founders saw religious liberty as a natural right, and so the First Amendment ensures that all people have an equality of rights to practice their faith. While originally written to apply to actions of the federal government, it was incorporated into state governments through the Fourteenth Amendment by the Supreme Court in the case ***Cantwell v. Connecticut*** (1940)."[4]

- The Fourteenth Amendment XIV Section 1 (1868) states:

  > "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."[5]

The above Amendments provide citizens of the State of Hawaii with our rights and freedoms to practice our religious beliefs. Each individual has his or her own standards and beliefs. This bill will compromise individual's religious beliefs, standards, values, and freedoms.

This bill should never take away religious rights of any individual. Individuals have the right to deny services and or products to others based on individual's religious beliefs and standards. I strongly urge you to consider all that I shared with you. I ask you to consider what I have stated. I urge you to oppose this bill!

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[3] http://billofrightsinstitute.org/resources/educator-resources/americapedia/americapedia-bill-of-rights/first-amendment/establishment-clause/

[4] http://billofrightsinstitute.org/resources/educator-resources/americapedia/americapedia-bill-of-rights/first-amendment/free-exercise-clause/

[5] http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_amendments_11-27.html

<u>For the Senate hearing</u>: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any same-sex marriage issue.

Same-sex marriage is not a civil right. No court (including the United States Supreme Court) has ever said that same-sex marriage is civil right. In 2002, the **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** rejected the complaint that New Zealand banned same-sex marriage violating civil right.

It is my opinion that the issue of same-sex marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same-sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people.

Please let the people decide on marriage.

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair and Members of the
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Subject: S.B. 1
Hearing Date: October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol Auditorium

Dear Honorable Chair Clayton Hee and Committee Members:

This letter is my written testimony in strong opposition of S.B. 1 and in favor of traditional marriage. Marriage is a unity between a man and a woman. In the name of Family, same-sex marriage serves to validate, not only such unions, but a homosexual in all its bisexual and transgender variants.

Legal recognition of same-sex marriage would obscure certain basic moral values, devalue traditional marriage and weaken public morality. What would it do in our schools? The public schools will have to teach children that this perversion is equivalent to marriage between a man and a woman. Will textbooks and illustrations in public schools and public areas have to show man/man and woman/woman relationships to give equal space to homosexuals? Have you considered the consequences and long-term effects of same-sex marriage on our society?

I, therefore, ask that this bill not be passed and instead you allow the people of the State of Hawaii vote on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

/s/Stevette Kaaihue

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marriage because Same Sex Marriage violates Chinese Tradition.

American Chinese are very serious about family. We tell the youth that taking care the elderlies in the family is their duty. We finance businesses through family. We borrow money to buy properties through family. We obtain the best education through family.

We know from our hearts that we need love from father and mother, so we apply the same to others. Our children need love from their father and mother as we do.

Same Sex Marriage bill is going to destroy Chinese tradition. We want our local boys and girls know that rearing family biologically is the best. We want to give the best to our future.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

Jarrell James Mahusay
94-543 Lumiaina Street #U201
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

I Vote **NO** to Senate Bill 1, authorizing same-sex marriage.

I am Christian and a former Naval Submarine Officer, who diligently served our country for 4 years. I currently manage a non-profit organization, Reveille Hawaii, aimed at connecting military members with the Hawaiian community. Our goal is to help with the epidemic of homelessness, drugs, and the needs of the Hawaiian people, through volunteerism, fund raising, and grateful hearts.

I am affected directly by this bill because of 3 reasons: It prohibits my core beliefs and my faith, which I have practiced all my life. It denies me my civil rights to choose, by vote, to disallow this bill. This bill also affects my livelihood and my ability to act upon my faith.

I have practiced Christianity since my birth on May 15, 1981. My family has practiced Christianity for generations dating back to our origins in the Philippines. My belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior requires us to live in such a way that we honor Him with the choices I make. Homosexuality is considered a Sin; not unlike drug abuse or alcoholism, all of which are defined by the Bible as immoral and should not be encouraged according to my faith practice. Same-sex marriage will significantly impact my ability to profess my faith through daily life as well as the lives of my future children by forcing my family to choose to follow the teachings of my God or to follow the law by condoning homosexuality. I will not and cannot follow any law that would be contrary to my beliefs as my resolve to follow my God and His teachings will supersede any law that maybe enacted. In spite of any decision by legislation, I will continue to live peacefully before all people regardless of their decision towards sexual orientation but I am incapable of recognizing any marriage not between a man and a woman. Marriage has been defined since ancient times as the union of a man and a woman, and whose purpose is the capacity to produce life naturally. Marriage has always been characterized by biblical terms, between man and woman, since the age of the Hawaiian kingdom. Hawaii must maintain a separation of church and state by denying passage of Senate Bill 1; marriage has always been a church institution regardless of faith background and is only recognized by the state through taxation purposes. For these reasons I must comply with the mandates by my God to proclude my faith and cannot endorse same-sex marriage.

This bill infringes my right to vote as defined by Amendment 18 of the U.S. Constitution. Although a previous bill permits the legislative body of the state of Hawaii to decide the validity of same-sex marriage, a bill whose affects of this magnitude should not be decided by an in accurate, and extremely small sample size of the state population represented only by a handful of legislative representatives. A vote of the people of Hawaii must be required in order to prove the desire of the

people to support this bill. Through the interactions of my non-profit organization and the Hawaiian people, I have determines that a cultural frustration of the people is the constant silencing of their voice and rights. This bill further exemplifies the neglect of the people to choose for themselves their desired course of governance. As a new and permanent resident of Hawaii for 3 years, I desire a chance to voice my vote and to vote no on this bill. Do not deny the people their voice, history has taught us that those who support the wishes of the people and their ability to choose are beloved and remembered, while those who deny the peoples right to choose are ostracized and culpable.

This bill directly affects my livelihood and the practice of my faith. My non-profit organization is based on Biblical principles, the act of giving, serving, comforting, and love towards all people regardless of race, creed, or sexual orientation. In conjunction with these principles are the directives to uphold morality as defined by the Bible, which include but are not limited to abuse prevention, poverty, as well as homosexuality. I am not able to carry out my duties as a Christian and a human being, to provide the quality of volunteerism, support, and care deserving of the people of Hawaii. God cannot use me effectively due to the prohibitions stated in Senate Bill 1. I should not be forced to choose between condoning homosexuality and following the commandments of my God. There are people who are indifferent to homosexuality and therefore may provide the services required of the LGBT community. Just as a customer has the ability to choose which business they want to purchase goods and services, retailers and service providers, whether profit or non-profit, should be able to determine morally what they determine to be right based on ancient and long standing principles. Today's capitalist society allows the consumer the right to determine whether a business survives or fails; if a place of business decides to uphold their Biblically moral beliefs and their belief is that the LGBT lifestyle is morally reprehensible then let their success or failure be determined by the patronage of the consumer and not by a law that has condemned them without the verdict of the consumer. Some may compare the disapproval of the LGBT lifestyle to racism, but LGBT is a lifestyle and not an intrinsic characteristic of a person such as their skin color. Just the same as no person is forced to accept a religion as a lifestyle, so should no person be forced to accept the LGBT lifestyle.

In conclusion, as a Christian and a contributing member of the Hawaiian people, I vote No to Senate Bill 1. This bill disagrees with the core of my faith which is also a lifestyle. It disagrees with my rights as a citizen of not only the United States but also as a citizen of Hawaii. It also disagrees with my livelihood and my ability to make a positive impact on the community. Finally, in Christianity, Jesus Christ was condemned to death by the Israelites, but because of their traditions, they were barred from making the decision to act upon His crucifixion. The people implored the help of the Roman governor Pontius Pilate to make the decision necessary to condemn Jesus to death. Pontius Pilate refused 3 times and finally he dipped his hands in water to symbolize that the blood of Jesus, an innocent man, would be on their hands and allowed the execution to take place. In the same way, hold yourself blameless for the decisions of the people. Allow the people of Hawaii to make this

choice because this will affect generations to come and you as legislators will walk amongst the people guiltless because you gave the people their vote and their rights. As our Leaders, in accordance with 2 Timothy 4:1-2, I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, Who will judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient, convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

October 27, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

Redefining marriage will mostly affects the minority of Hawai'i residents who identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian, but it could change society for those Hawai'i residents who hold strong and believe in their constitutional rights to protect religion. The wording of this Bill will force churches and religious entities that oppose same sex marriage on moral grounds to have these services conducted within their halls. This undermines the very **Constitution** and should **NOT** be decided in a special session but should be brought before the people. Many churches do open their doors to their communities to assist in better the community and providing a place for community functions. During these times the churches do not "preach" to the community so why is it that this Bill will **DEMAND** that any church opening its doors to community organizations must allow same sex marriages to be performed. If this is a state decision to legalize same sex marriage then such services should be limited to state or county buildings and **NOT** churches. This Bill will force many churches to close their doors to the community which will in turn hurt the community.

This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE**!

If the majority of people in Hawai'i feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it is important that **sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon**. Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
William Guest
PO Box 711894
Mountain View, HI 96771

For Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor
Monday, 10/28/13 at 10:30AM
SB 1 Relating to Equality

ONLY WRITTEN TESTIMONY in Opposition to SB1 Relating To Equality – From Concerned Citizens of Kalihi, Foster Village, Salt Lake, Pearl City, Waianae, …

TO: Honorable Chair Hee, Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Labor, As Well As All Legislators Who Still Consider Passing this Bill.

It is with great sadness and disappointment that we write- having to take the time, money and effort again to write you about this issue. Why is this Bill SB 1 being considered? Why is this issue of same sex rights re-visited AGAIN? Didn't the gay advocates receive their reciprocal beneficiary benefits? Didn't the gay advocates strongly say they were not seeking for the marriage status?

Same Sex Advocates cannot use the word Marriage for their union, BECAUSE THEY DO NOT QUALIFY. HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH FAIRNESS, BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO QUALIFY. MAN AND WOMAN QUALIFIES AS A MARRIAGE -2MEN OR 2WOMEN DO NOT QUALIFY AS A MARRIAGE.

SIMPLE MATH
Same Sex Union Is NOT THE SAME as Marriage, which means :
The Same Sex Marriage Bill IS A SHAM
2Men DOES NOT EQUAL A Man& AWoman
2Women DOES NOT EQUAL AWoman& AMan
It's that simple

A same sex couple is called a gay couple or homosexual couple, etc., But now they are also called a 'Civil Union', because some Legislators gave it to them. So that is also what they are called. A Civil Union. Period.

People should not be allowed to take something that is Sacred:Marriage(Male&FemaleCouple) and change it into something Indecent:(Same SexCouple). MARRIAGE is not just a word randomly made up. This word was ordained for a MAN & WOMAN union .

Like parents - If you are a parent, trying to raise kids to do what is right, and if they keep nagging you for things they shouldn't have…Are you going to keep giving them more of what they shouldn't have? When you truly Love your kids, don't you discipline and set boundaries for them by saying NO?
If you truly Love them.

Marriage means Man & Woman union. That's the boundary. When the Civil Union Bill passed, it opened the boundaries. PLEASE DON'T ALLOW THEM TO CROSS OVER THE BOUNDARIES. BY REJECTING THIS SSM BILL, YOU KEEP THOSE BOUNDARIES IN PLACE.

MEANING OF MARRIAGE IS : MAN & WOMAN UNION…….PERIOD……..SIMPLE
EVERYONE SHOULD RESPECT AND UPHOLD THIS UNION

<u>QUESTIONS LEGISLATORS NEED TO ANSWER</u>

1. The Civil Unions Bill was passed – Why are you even considering this SB 1 Bill?

2. Legislators are there, because we cannot. Legislators represent us. You are there to preserve and upkeep traditional values, things that are good, decent, honorable, morally right. You are there to protect us. Are you representing us? Are you going to protect us?

3. Legislators are there to establish laws that promote order, decency, create boundaries to live orderly and decent lives, without taking away basic rights of other people. The SSM bill promotes Lawlessness. Do you want to promote Lawlessness?

4. (Not counting those legislators participating in a same sex relationship) When you think about 2women together, or 2men together – How do you feel or think? Can you honestly say you don't have any uncomfortable feelings or thoughts about this kind of relationship?

THE HAWAII SENATE
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Interim of 2013

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
The Honorable Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Sen. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Monday, October 28, 2013
TIME OF HEARING: 10:30 a.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: Auditorium State Capitol

TESTIMONY ON SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 11,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW supports SB1 that recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex and extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

Historically, labor has always fought for fair and equal rights for all. Workers' rights, racial discrimination, and gender discrimination are examples of social injustices that we as a society have faced. Today, we have an opportunity to address this important issue of marriage equality. Let us reflect on the significant social changes of our past and continue to work toward life, liberty, and justice for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Agnes R. Malate

P.O. Box 61068 • Honolulu. HI 96839 • 808-388-3019

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1: RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

Special Session of the Hawai‘i State Legislature
October 28, 2013, 10:00am
Capitol Auditorium
Hawai‘i State Capitol

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1 for a person’s freedom to marry the person you love regardless of the couple’s gender. I arrived at this position with much thought and deliberation.

I grew up in a small tight knit plantation community where life revolved around the Catholic Church and we had strong youth groups that provided me and other youth the foundation to treat people with kindness, respect, love, and understanding. Being actively involved with the church provided me with a solid foundation that has guided the way I view the world and my firm belief in equality for all regardless of their economic and social circumstances. However, I also believe that the government should not determine whom people are able to marry or not.

I have friends who are gay and lesbian and they are entitled to the same rights and protection accorded to those who believe in traditional marriage. My friends care about each other very much and would like to cement their love and relationship through the sacred bond of marriage.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure and I urge you to please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawai‘i‘s ‘ohana.

From: Joseph Tagorda

Date: 25 October, 2013

Subject: Support for SB 1, relating to equal rights in terms of same-sex marriage

States that lack constitutional protection are already seeing threats to freedom. The U.S. Constitution should not interfere with citizens' fundamental rights. These rights, which traces back to John Locke's natural rights philosophy, are so fundamental or basic that governments may not interfere or regulate them. One of those fundamental rights expressed by the Supreme Court is the right to marry and have children. The United States' substantive due process (that is referenced in the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution) protects that right. By denying this fundamental right, the state would be denying the citizen's rights to the U.S. Constitution's 5th amendment.

The legislature's third intent of protecting religious freedom and liberty (mentioned in SB 1) must be enforced. As stated in the bill, The legislature must "ensure that no clergy or other officer of any religious organization will be required to solemnize any marriage, in accordance with the Hawaii State Constitution and the United States Constitution…" I grew up as a catholic since day 1. I attended Sunday school classes to receive the sacraments to make a full-pledged catholic. What I learned from these classes include gay rights and how it should not be allowed. I hold true to this belief as a catholic. Thus, I believe that churches must hold true to their beliefs. Churches do not have to acknowledge gay marriages under the religion, specifically allowing gay couples go through the sacrament of matrimony. Churches and gay rights advocates each have their own beliefs and both parties must respect each other’s.

Aloha Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am submitting this testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage in Hawaii.

I am a twenty-one year old college student who attends Hawaii Pacific University. I oppose this bill because I feel like this issue is being pushed way faster than it should. It is not just about changing the meaning of marriage, but it is changing the lifestyle of Hawaii.

I ask that you would please do one of two things:

A. Leave the institution of marriage the way it has been for thousands of years. And the way we thought we defined it in 1998.

B. Take the issue back to the citizens of the State and allow us to vote for a clearly worded constitutional amendment.

Thank you for your time and for this opportunity to testify.

Blessings,
Kalani Baughman

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street
RE: SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS - STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha, Chair Hee and Vice Chair Shimabukuro,

My name is Diana Bethel and I am writing in strong support of SB1: Relating to Equal Rights. Bill SB1 recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex and extends to them the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

I feel that the time is long past due to extend equal rights to LBGT citizens of Hawaii. There is no objective or rational basis on which to continue discrimination against LGBT members of our community.

Martin Luther King said that the arc of history bends toward justice. As a Christian and believer in fairness for all, I believe that SB1 is an important step in overcoming the shameful history of discrimination and violence suffered by LGBT people, often empowered by so-called Christians and other bigots.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB1. Please make Hawaii proud by voting in favor of SB1 and equal rights for the LGBT people of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Diana Bethel
Honolulu

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 Beretania Street

I am Chris Slade and I am a voting resident of Hawaii and a resident of Laie. I am writing my testimony in regards to Senate Bill 1. I am testifying in opposition to this bill.

I have read the proposed legislation and consulted with friends who have the required experience to properly interpret the bill and its implications on religious liberty. I heard an interview Senator Hee gave where he noted the importance of striking a balance between people of religious convictions and those that support same-sex marriage. Unfortunately, the bill put forward does not protect religious liberty. I have included my friends' legal analysis of the reasons why it doesn't below.

As a Christian, I think the most important part of my religion is love of others. As such, I would never want to embarrass, belittle, or hurt anyone with a same-sex attraction. I do not want to control their decisions to lead the life that they choose to live. **However, I think the underlining issue for me is that they do want to control the decisions that I make and how I live my life**. They want me to accept their actions even though they go against my religious beliefs. They want my church and my God to change to accept their actions. As a Christian, I strive to love all people, but that does not require me to accept and approve of their actions. Loving them as a person is a requirement of my religion, but accepting their actions goes against my religion.

I cannot change my religious beliefs any more than a person with a same-sex attraction can change their beliefs. My religion is who I am. My life experiences, and my genetic code have made me into a Christian with profound beliefs that control my everyday actions. Why are their convictions more important than mine? Why should I, or anyone else, be legally forced to do acts that go against who they are? These acts include hosting a marriage solemnization or reception, taking wedding pictures, and providing a wedding cake for same-sex couples. The bill, in it's current state, does not protect anyone with religious beliefs from performing these acts for same-sex couples if they perform these acts for a different-sex couple. If one does not perform these acts they will be faced with insurmountable legal bills, fines, and closure of businesses (see legal analysis below).

Same-sex couples already have the same legal protection that different-sex couples have through the civil liberties bill; what they don't have is the ability to force people to do acts that show that they approve of their actions. That's why they want this bill. Let the people vote and decide this issue. At the very least, don't pass this bill until it allows all people to live the way they choose to live. Don't decide that one groups' convictions are more important than another's, and don't punish people that choose to live their life and pursue their happiness according to their religious convictions. They cannot change their convictions any more than those with same-sex attraction.

Again, I am testifying in opposition to this bill.

Thank you,
Chris Slade
808-489-8710

Legal Analysis:
This bill does not protect religious liberty because:
First, the exemption language on page 7 addresses only the narrow issue of making "a religious facility . . . available for solemnization" of same-sex marriages. (Lines 3-5.) <u>That is far too narrow</u>. It is not only "solemnization"—the legal and typically religious act of formally joining two people in marriage—that is a problem for religiously affiliated organizations. The bill provides no protections against lawsuits seeking to force religiously affiliated organizations with sincere religious objections to accommodate celebrations, receptions, parties, and other events associated with same-sex marriages. Nor does it provide any protections against efforts to force religious organizations to service or cater such marriages. And of course, as a separate matter, the section provides absolutely no protections for individuals or very small businesses whose sincerely held religious beliefs prohibit them from participating in same-sex weddings, such as the deeply religious photographer. The religious conscience rights of such individuals are simply ignored. In sum, exemption is too narrow. The protections in section 572-G on page 7 begin with the false assumption that the only real religious liberty issue is the use of a "religious facility" for "solemnization." That is one issue, to be sure, but by no stretch the only one.
Second, the protections are limited to "religious organizations," which is not defined. What about wholly owned/controlled subsidiaries or affiliated entities of religious organizations, such as religious schools and universities? Are these places, which often have profound religious significance, entitled to any protections under the bill? It does not appear so.
Third, by requiring that a religious organization "restrict[] use of the religious facility to its members" (page 7, lines 9-10) in order to qualify for the purported protection, the bill would protect very few if any religious facilities, because even exclusively religious, nonprofit facilities are often used to marry people who are not

technically "members" of the faith community. For example, if the grandchildren of members have ceased to be members of a church but the church still allows them to get married in its chapel at their grandparents' request, the current language of the bill would deny that church any protections from having to make its facility available for the performance of same-sex marriages. That is unreasonable, grossly unfair, and likely unconstitutional. I understand that no other religious exemption in the country is so limited. Lines 8-10 should be deleted.

Fourth and most troubling, the entire exemption is illusory. The bill's heading (lines 1-2) purports to provide a "liability exemption," but <u>in reality it provides no exemption from anything at all</u>. How can that be? Because after reciting the purported exemption in lines 2-17, subsection (c) takes away any such protections that may have been provided by saying that no such protections shall apply "if the religious facility is a place of public accommodation" under Hawaii law. (Lines 20-21.) But the exemption in subsections (a) and (b) has meaning <u>only</u> if it protects against suits based on Hawaii's extremely broad public accommodations laws, since that is the only basis in the first place for bringing a lawsuit for not allowing a same-sex marriage in a religious facility. In short, subsection (c) renders (a) and (b) meaningless while giving the illusion of protection.

Fifth, and most importantly, advocates will be emboldened by the lack of any real protection to affirmatively argue that places of worship are generally places of public accommodations if they do not meet the three criteria in subsection (a). (See lines 6-12.) Thus, the bill's meaningless exemption for religious facilities will not only fail to protect religious liberty but may well be used to affirmatively abridge it.

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Second Special Session of 2013
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON SB 1

TO THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR AND
THE HONORABLE MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO,VICE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

My name is Renate Whitcomb. I am a member of Mokuaikaua Church in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. Long before the government became involved in marrying people the Christian Church was uniting man and woman in Holy Matrimony[1]. The couple would enter the date married in to their family Bible. This was evidence they were married. The Authority that substantiated the marriage was God, as stated in Genesis 2:18, 21-24[2]

18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for[e] him." 21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made[h] into a woman and brought her to the man. 23 Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones
  and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
  because she was taken out of Man."[i]

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

This relationship of marriage was designed out of God's heart of love to provide mankind with a complement that would complete his identity. Mankind is made in the image of a loving, self-giving God and consequently we reflect God's nature. God is triune in nature, Father-Son-Holy Spirit and we are created triune in nature with the capacity to love and be self-giving in our family relationship, man-woman-children.[3]

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[1]http://vigilance.teachthefacts.org/2007/11/why-does-government-regulate-marriage.html
[2] http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%202&version=ESV
[3] http://www.catholic.org/hf/love/story.php?id=37200

The proposed idea of making marriage a venture of two people of the same sex is fraught with peril. I grieve for those who desire to feel legitimate in their relationship and yet I am concerned about the first amendment rights and the conscience of Christians being breeched since a Christian cannot be a practicing homosexual.[4] This is a slippery slope of legislating someone else's morality, from a Christian perspective. I say this respectfully.

Here are some facts on Same Sex Marriage (SSM) from countries that have legalized it:

1. In Canada a study was done on the children of SSM couples and it showed that about 65% graduate from High School with girls being more dramatically affected than boys.[5]
2. In the Netherlands Civil Servant's refuses to register same sex couples and is fired from job.[6]
3. In Sweden and Norway homosexual couples are 50% more likely than heterosexual couples to end in divorce.[7]
4. In the Netherlands the average SSM lasts 1 ½ years on average that man has 12 additional partners during that "marriage".[8]

The state motto concludes that, "Ua mau ke ea o ka aina I ka pono" , " The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness". Please help to maintain pono and life in Hawaii and keep marriage between a man and a woman who produce keike and bring about love and righteousness in the land.

Mahalo and Pono,

Renate Whitcomb

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[4] http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%206&version=ESV#fen-ESV-28460b
[5] http://spectator.org/blog/2013/10/08/canadas-gay-marriage-example
[6] http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2012/05/15/dutch-advice-to-obama-on-same-sex-marriage.html
[7] http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/03/the_annulment_of_same-sex_marriage.html
[8] Maria Xiridou, Ronald Geskus, Jon DeWit, Roel Coutinho, and Mirjam Kretzschmar, "The Contribution of Steady and Casual Partnerships to the Incidence of HIV Infection Among Homosexual Men in Amsterdam," *AIDS*, 17

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

In the summer of 2011 I was granted the distinct honor of being able to marry my wife in New York City. Unfortunately, the moment we arrived home in Hawai‘i our marriage was downgraded in the eyes of the law to a Civil Union. Frankly, until this past June I was ok with that. Hawai‘i’s Civil Union law was comprehensive enough to afford my wife and I the same rights and protections enjoyed by any married couple in the state and federal law would not have recognized our marriage anyway. However, times have changed.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court’s overturning of key provisions of DOMA, every day that goes by without marriage equality in Hawai‘i is a day that committed couples such as my wife and I, are left vulnerable and less secure than our heterosexual peers. While the IRS, for example, has applied the Supreme Court decision to allow all married same-sex couples to file taxes jointly regardless of the state they live in, there are numerous other federal benefits and protections that are currently only available to married couples who live in states that recognize their marriages. There is still much uncertainty about whether federal agencies, such as the Social Security Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs, will recognize same-sex marriages of couples living in non-marriage equality states like Hawaii.

Civil unions simply are not recognized as marriages under federal law. Lacking the right to legally marry in Hawai‘i, same-sex couples must leave their home to marry in order to receive some but not all federal benefits and protections. Even after they have unfairly expended extra money, time, and effort not required of heterosexual couples, these married same-sex couples are still ineligible for many federal benefits and protections. Passing marriage equality in Hawaii can change this.

It is time for the Hawai‘i to stand on the right side of history and become the 15th state to stand for the equitable recognition of all committed couples. Please pass SB 1 to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Mahalo for you time, consideration and leadership

Tara O’Neill
431 Nahua Street
Honolulu HI, 96815

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marriage because Same Sex Marriage violates Chinese Tradition.

American Chinese are very serious about family. We tell the youth that taking care the elderlies in the family is their duty. We finance businesses through family. We borrow money to buy properties through family. We obtain the best education through family.

We know from our hearts that we need love from father and mother, so we apply the same to others. Our children need love from their father and mother as we do.

Same Sex Marriage bill is going to destroy Chinese tradition. We want our local boys and girls know that rearing family biologically is the best. We want to give the best to our future.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 Beretania Street

My name is Katie Slade and I am a voting resident of Hawaii and a resident of Laie. I am writing my testimony in regards to Senate Bill 1. I am testifying in opposition to this bill.

I have friends and family who are homosexual. I love them and never want to see them hurt or mistreated for their choice to be so. However, this is not the issue in this bill. These friends and family members who are homosexual have the opportunity (thanks to the law passed in 2011) to be married if they choose. I sincerely would hope they were happy in their decision. They know and would not **force** me to accept their choice, nor teach my children in school that their behavior is normal and right. Again, we love these friends and family. This bill is asking me, and religious organizations, to change my definition of marriage. I cannot do that. I sincerely want to uphold the law and be a law-abiding citizen, but I cannot (and will not) uphold, support or teach this. Religious organizations, whose individuals believe they are accountable to God, cannot and will not uphold, support, or teach this either.

I am a wife and mother and will NEVER teach my children that marriage is anything but an institution between a man and a woman. The institution of marriage, between a man and woman, is sacred to me. This definition is what holds our society together. If this is broken, the outcomes to our state would be disastrous. Will the need on the side of the homosexual individuals to be accepted stop with this bill? I truly don't think it will. Again, I implore you to think about **all** the ways the implementation of this bill will change our society and the increase in conflict and lawsuits that will undoubtedly occur. Can we even foresee all the problems and repercussions?

The wording and content in the current bill does not adequately protect religious liberty.

The bill purports exemption, but really provides no exemption from anything at all. The bill's heading professes to imply "liability exemption", however subsection (c) takes away protections to religious facilities (that were purported in lines 2-17) if they are "places of public accommodation". Those protections are then taken away in lines 20-21 if they are also places of public accommodation. Aren't most of these

religious facilities places of public accommodation? What is going to be covered then?

In lines 3-5 on page 7, the issue of making "a religious facility...available for solemnization" of same-sex marriages, is too narrow. While it attempts to protect the religious facility for "solemnization", it doesn't protect a religious facility from receptions, celebrations nor individuals or small businesses who may be involved, like a photographer, caterer, etc from involvement.

The protections limited to "religious organizations" is not defined. Does that include religious schools and universities?

Restricting the use of religious facility to it's members (page 7, lines 8-10), may have been an attempt to protect, but is likely to create problems. What if two people who marry have separate faiths... does that mean that they cannot be married in either one of their religious facilities?

Regarding that places of worship are generally places of public accommodation, if a facility fails to meet the criteria in subsection (a), won't that result in more lawsuits and conflict as the current bill fails to protect the religious liberty promised in the Bill of Rights?

In short, the current bill fails to protect religious liberty in the aforementioned areas as well as is an infringement upon my personal religious rights. I hope you will seriously consider these concerns as they are of great importance to me as well as many of your religious constituents. I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

Thank you,
Katie Slade
808-489-4247

Evelyn Delgado

Phone: (808) 393-1241

E-mail: delgadoohana@yahoo.com

Subject: Special Session On Same Sex Marriage

Dear Honorable Hawaii Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

As a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue. As a voter in the State of Hawaii, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process.

It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent.

In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the voters of the State of Hawaii. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that He will continue to encourage you in all that you do.

God Bless,

Evelyn Delgado

October 25, 2013

Dear Elected Officials and the General Public,

My name is Joy Salinas Agard and I live in Kailua-Kona on the Big Island of Hawai'i. I would like to testify as a parent, a highly-qualified licensed elementary school teacher, a Solid Rock Ministries Kingdom Kidz small groups volunteer leader, a community volunteer, and a general excise tax license holder. I plead to stop the special legislative session and allow the people of Hawai'i to vote on the proposed Same-sex Marriage Bill, SB1. I believe that SB1 is flawed and does not protect my religious freedom.

I believe our religious freedom will be compromised if SB1 becomes a law. My main concern is that of a parent of three children, ages 10, 11, and 13, who attend public school in the Kealakehe District. I raise my children upon biblical principles and values. We are active members at Solid Rock Ministries which belongs to the Assemblies of God organization. We believe that we should love all people. I raise my children to love and honor all people in loving kindness. It concerns me that Christians are being seen as a threat to others with different beliefs. My view as a parent is that I have the right to teach my children that there are different types of people in this world and we are to respect everyone. I believe that I also have the right to teach my children from God's Word which in Ephesians 5 says that marriage is between a man and a woman, in covenant with God, which is likened to Christ's relationship with His church. After watching a video about what has happened in Massachusetts (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZX55HUPFSU) I believe that this religious freedom will be compromised if the special legislative session continues and SB1 becomes a law. Public schools will teach my children about same-sex relationships and same-sex sexual acts, and I will no longer be able to raise my children with the principles and values set forth by my religious beliefs because same-sex marriage will be normalized, and negate any religious teaching that preceeds SB1 becoming a law. This special legislative session has raised a lot of conversations in my home questioning why our leaders are compromising our religious freedom by introducing a bill that is not clearly written and does not protect all citizens. I plead you to stop the special legislative session and let people vote on this matter.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Salinas Agard
73-978 Ahulani St.

Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

Dear Senator Clayton Hee, 10/26/2013

My name is Rita May Meatoga a mother, a daughter and a sister that believe in standing firm in my beliefs. **I am very concern about this Bill #SB1 and very much against it.** As a good citizen and mother in my community that teaches what is pono. I urge you to vote against this BILL and preserve the traditional family and protect religious freedom.

Mahalo,

Rita May Meatoga

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono. The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness. Do what is right--heed the voices of the local and the Hawaiian people.

First, I do not equate the urgency of this Bill as the same emergency surrounding 9/11 for instance, when a Hawaii special session was called. I believe we as a State have much, much more other pressing matters at hand. Forcing this coercive Bill and the special session without consideration of the local and Hawaiian people is not right.

Secondly, the issue at hand on November 3, 1998 was very similar to the one today where a majority of the people overwhelmingly voted against same sex marriage. I strongly think that the legalization of same sex marriage is counter to the welfare of individuals, families, communities, schools, business and governments. Give this legislation proper due process during a regular session and I respectfully ask you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage. The people and the land of Hawaii will speak.

The prosperity of our lives and our Islands, present and future, depend on pono--doing the right thing for the local people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jonathan Lee
Honolulu, HI 96816

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marraige because of our heartfelt concern and compassion for the future of our state. I concern over the physical, mental and emotional problems that will beset those who choose the homosexual lifestyle, and I object to what this will do to our community, my children and to my traditional family life. Evidence clearly show that children must be raised in a traditional family environment to thrive and to grow.

In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

Date of Hearing: October 28, 2013

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Person testifying: Kathleen Tanaka

Re: Senate Bill 1: Relating to Equal Rights

In Opposition

Chairs & Committee Members:

I would like to state my concerns and reasons for opposing SB1.

1. My first concern pertains to Section 572-G which exempts religious organizations from being required to make their facility available for a particular marriage provided that "For solemnization of marriages pursuant to this chapter, the religious organization restricts use of the religious facility to its members" (line 8-10). However, not every religious organization has a membership system, and therefore these religious organizations would not be protected by this bill. Because of the strong moral component involved with religion, I believe that, out of respect, religious organizations should be reserved the right to decide what their facilities are used for based on the nature of the event and if the event conflicts with the religious organization's morals, values and beliefs, regardless of whether or not they have a membership system.
2. My second concern is in regards to the way this bill is being handled. Marriage is not an emergency or an issue of health and safety compared to issues such as human sex trafficking and homelessness. This special session is using tax payers' money for something that could wait like all the other bills people want to pass. There are other pressing issues that probably could have used such a session instead.
3. Lastly, I believe that marriage was designed to be between one man and one woman. Every human being, including those desiring to enter into a same-sex marriage relationship, needed a biological father and mother to even come into existence - not two fathers or two mothers. Therefore, this bill would go against the very concept of procreation. Furthermore, if these couples want children in their family, this bill would actually permit and condone the idea that it is okay to deprive the child of either his/her mother or father.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony.

Tawna Chun

47-010 Kamehameha Hwy

Kaneohe HI 96744

I'm writing to testify in behalf of the rights of people of faith. I understand that there are probably enough votes for this bill to go forward, but I hope that the bill will be adjusted to protect all of the people of Hawaii and not only those who want marriage equality.

I'm not motivated by hate. I have never treated a person of any sexual orientation with less than respect. I love and respect many people, family and friends whose life styles differ from my beliefs.

I am motivated by fear of issues I have seen arise in my home state of California, as well as other states. It's important that :

*Churches be excepted from participation in same sex ceremonies that contradict their beliefs without regard to members, non-members, use of facilities and so forth. The present wording sets up law suits and puts the state in a position to dictate to churches.

*Private citizens need to be protected from fear of the kind of vindictive discrimination law suits that we've seen in other states and even in Hawaii. Bakers, caterers, wedding planners, photographers and musicians should preserve the right to stay out of ceremonies that conflict with their religious beliefs—especially when there are other vendors willing to do the job.

*Children should not be subjected to sexual information that is opposed to their families' beliefs or is inappropriate for their age. Parents have a right to decide what their minor children will learn about sex and reproduction and teachers have a right to refuse to teach concepts that go against their conscience.

While preserving the rights of gays, lesbians, transgendered persons and their families, please remember to preserve the rights of persons of faith and the innocence of Hawaii's children.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tawna Chun

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly OPPOSE the bill #SB1 and believe the people of Hawaii should be allowed to vote regarding the issue. I believe in traditional marriage and feel that this bill does not adequately protect MY rights and beliefs.

In Hawaii, we already voted regarding this issue. Does our vote as a people mean nothing?!

Sincerely,

Jerry Tefan

October 2, 2013

To: Committee on Judiciary and Labor, Hearing on Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Senator Sam Slom, Senator Malama Solomon

Testimony in Support of SB 1 – Equal Rights

Aloha, Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Senators of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor.
I strongly support Senate Bill 1 on Equal Rights, that would recognize marriages between individuals of the same sex, and extend to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

I am Jo Chang, a state retiree, and 70 years old. I am the mother of 3 sons, one gay and two straight, and the grandmother of a bi-sexual granddaughter. I co-founded a support group called DA MOMS for parents of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender children, "LGBT" for short, because the bias and discrimination that hurts our LGBT children and youth in the community, also causes great pain and distress to their parents and their family members. This bias and discrimination also hurts same sex couples and their children, elderly LGBT, and all LGBT individuals. The extent of the harm caused by such bias and discrimination is so great. As a community educator, we can try our best for the rest of our lives to help people to see that this bias and discrimination is unwarranted and unfair, but we, alone, cannot make the changes that are needed to end this unwarranted discrimination.

So we are turning to you, our elected representatives, to send a strong, positive and inclusive message to everyone in our state, as did the U.S. Supreme Court in its recent decision in striking down section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, by recognizing marriages of same sex couples, and making them eligible for federal benefits as a married couple. We need you, our elected representatives, to help us to say clearly that our gay family members and gay families in our Hawaii communities have an equal place in Hawaii – and to recognize them as the wonderful family members and valuable citizens that they already are.

Many people have cast the debate over this measure as one of discrimination by gay people against the religious community. But so many of those who support this bill, including our gay and lesbian family members and their families, also are a very large part of our religious communities. Our gay and lesbian children, family members, and friends are not outsiders or a separate group in Hawaii. They are, as we are, a part of our Hawaii families, and of all the communities in Hawaii –they work and contribute and they too are the people that we call our Hawaii. It is time that our gay ohana have their relationships sanctioned by the state, just as our straight relationships are, and that they have all the protections and support that the state and federal governments provide to our straight families.

I wish this for my gay son, and look forward to the day that he can marry his partner right here at home.

Thank you.

October 26, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SUBJECT: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in **OPPOSITION** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

According to an article on page A-13 of the September 20 edition of the Wall Street Journal, same-sex marriage legislation has had a devastating impact on citizens who decline to serve same-sex ceremonies due to religious conflicts. For example:

- Many County recorders, magistrates, judges, town clerks and justices of the peace in Iowa, Massachusetts and New York have resigned because they were told that refusing to perform services for same-sex couples will result in criminal prosecutions for misdemeanors or other sanctions.
- A florist in Richland, Washington, was sued by the States Attorney General and American Civil Liberties Union for refusing to provide flowers for a same-sex couple.
- A Christian couple that owns a bakery in Oregon closed their shop; permanently because the State launched an investigation into their religious objections.
- The New Mexico Supreme Court upheld a $6,637 fine against Elane Photography, stating that being "compelled by law to compromise the very religious beliefs that inspire their lives" was the "price of citizenship."

This legislation will have little effect on the civil rights of the estimated 5% of Hawaii's residents who identify themselves as gay or lesbian, because they can travel to any one of the fourteen states or the District of Columbia (which have adopted same-sex marriage legislation) to get married. However, it will have a catastrophic effect on the First Amendment rights of the 95% of Hawaii's residents who identify themselves as religious.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you VOTE IN OPPOSTION to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,

Elaine Lee
Hilo, Hawaii

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any same-sex marriage issue.

Being a mother of two, I am worried and feeling so helpless about this SSM bill. This Special Session is coming up so quick and without giving Hawaii residents enough information about the consequence and impact that SSM will bring to our society, especially to the education system for our children.

Since this bill will affect all the children in Hawaii, I truly believed that being a mother, a resident of Hawaii and a citizen of the United States, I should have a right to vote on this matter.

Please say No to the bill and give this importance decision back to the people to decide.

Sincerely,

Vera Tong

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Date: Oct. 26, 2013

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We are in opposition to same sex marriage. Please oppose this bill as it is principally against God's created order and His word. Please give us the opportunity to vote on this bill.

Sincerely,

Roland

Aloha to those who will be deciding the fate of this bill.

My name is Joy Yamada and I live in Mililani. I am a concerned citizen who expects you as the representatives of the people of Hawaii to remember who you are representing. I oppose this bill. This bill will affect everyone for generations to come. Our country was and is based on freedom and free agency, this bill takes away that freedom and agency from churches and other religious institutions; by forcing them to go against their beliefs rights. We expect you to please protect this freedom and agency for the people and our churches. Do not rush this bill through, I expect as a citizen and voter to let us exercise our right to vote and let us vote on this matter. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely a concerned citizen and voter,

Joy Yamada

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I would like to voice my strong opposition to SB 1, as it is one of the most divisive, damaging measures I have heard of in my life. Giving so-called marriage equality to a veritable handful of citizens, will effectually trample on the rights of the vast majority of citizens. To say that the exemptions proposed are inadequate is an understatement. The exemptions proposed are rendered invalid because of the public accommodations which are carved out in the language of the exemptions. It is my belief that the governor's current bill will violate the religious and moral convictions of a huge majority of Hawaii's citizens. SB 1 will change forever the fabric of our society, and it will not be a change for the better.

Yours respectfully,

Elizabeth K. Lyons
Mililani, HI

Carol Parker
PO Box 25714
Honolulu, HI 96825

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

1. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion, and ultimately also denies individual citizens the right of free speech and lawful assembly.
2. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively.
3. It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion and ultimately also denies individual citizens the right of free speech and lawful assembly.
4. It re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage without regard to the impact and consequences on Hawaii, society, the community, and individual rights.
5. It fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members from lawsuits.
6. It is fast-tracked through a process that does not offer Neighbor Island individuals the opportunity to present testimony in person.
7. It appears to be the act of the State of Hawaii Executive Branch and the Legislature to put the 'wants' of non-residents of Hawaii over the needs and will of residents of the people of Hawaii and the registered voters of Hawaii.
8. It appears to be the act of a legislative body attempting to ignore the firmly expressed will of registered Hawaii voters and bypass the voters of Hawaii who have already voted on this issue.
9. It appears to be the first act of a legislative body being forced to pass legislation by an Executive Branch attempting to show its first step in showing its power over the people of Hawaii.
10. It excludes legislative representatives of some registered voters of Hawaii the process and opportunity to vote on the legislation. This violates the US Constitution guaranteed right for the people to be represented in the legislation process.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Carol Parker
Registered Hawaii Voter

Testimony to Senate Bill No. 1

Relating to Equality

Before the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB1, relating to equality, which recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex. I do not support this bill.

My belief is that marriage should only be between a man and a woman. You cannot procreate between two people of the same sex, so this bill is not about equality because they are not the same.

Due to its sensitive nature, this bill should not be rushed through. The language should be thought out carefully with input from both opponents and supporters. The people of Hawaii should be allowed to vote on this measure, not by legislators who are being pressured by the Governor. There is absolutely no reason why a special session had to be called.

Once we allow same-sex marriages in Hawaii, we may not be able to reverse it; therefore, I pray that you will make the right decision for the people of Hawaii.

October 27, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Bill #SB1

Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

According to an article on page A-13 of the September 20 edition of the Wall Street Journal, same-sex marriage legislation has had a devastating impact on citizens who decline to serve same-sex ceremonies due to religious conflicts. For example:

- A florist in Richland, Washington, was sued by the State Attorney General and the American Civil Liberties Union.
- A Christian couple that owns a bakery in Gresham, Oregon closed their shop because the State launched an investigation into their religious objections.
- The New Mexico Supreme Court upheld a $6,637 fine against Elane Photography, stating that being “compelled by law to compromise the very religious beliefs that inspire their lives” was “the price of citizenship."
- Many County recorders, magistrates, judges, town clerks, and justices of the peace in Iowa, Massachusetts, and New York have resigned because they were told that refusing to perform services for same-sex couples will result in criminal prosecutions for misdemeanors or other sanctions.

This legislation will have little effect on the civil rights of the estimated 5% of Hawaii's residents who identify themselves as gay or lesbian, because they can travel to any one of the fourteen states or the District of Columbia, which have adopted same-sex marriage legislation, to get

married. However, it will have a catastrophic effect on the First Amendment rights of the 95% of Hawaii's residents who identify themselves as religious.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,

Wayne A. Frank

15-1909 26th street

Hawaiian Paradise Park Kea'au 96749

<u>For the Senate hearing</u>: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any same-sex marriage issue.

Same-sex marriage is not a civil right. No court (including the United States Supreme Court) has ever said that same-sex marriage is civil right. In 2002, the **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** rejected the complaint that New Zealand banned same-sex marriage violating civil right.

It is my opinion that the issue of same-sex marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same-sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people.

Please let the people decide on marriage.

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marriage because Same Sex Marriage violates Chinese Tradition.

American Chinese are very serious about family. We tell the youth that taking care the elderlies in the family is their duty. We finance businesses through family. We borrow money to buy properties through family. We obtain the best education through family.

We know from our hearts that we need love from father and mother, so we apply the same to others. Our children need love from their father and mother as we do.

Same Sex Marriage bill is going to destroy Chinese tradition. We want our local boys and girls know that rearing family biologically is the best. We want to give the best to our future.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marraige because of our heartfelt concern and compassion for the future of our state. I concern over the physical, mental and emotional problems that will beset those who choose the homosexual lifestyle, and I object to what this will do to our community, my children and to my traditional family life. Evidence clearly show that children must be raised in a traditional family environment to thrive and to grow.

In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

26OCT13

Dear Committee members:

I wanted to thank you for taking the time to meet with the people on such short notice to discuss the most diversive and polarizing issue of our time, Marriage Equality. As a young man in my early twenties I have experienced much in my short life, from growing up in the projects of New York city to learning how to deal with the absence of a father and coping with stresses of military life as a child. My mother joined the United States Army at the age of 32 in 1998 when I was only 10 years old, we moved to Colorado as she was stationed at Fort Carson in hopes of a better life and a better future than the one we were currently headed towards.

Over the years I began to discover myself and figure out who I wanted to be and who I already was. I was sent to a residential vocational school in CO to finish my high school years, it was there that I came out of the closet as gay man and then what I feared most happened, the gay bashing started and for 2 years this continued until I finished my high school diploma and went on to college, I met my Ex in Colorado and he was in the army and I thought things would be great until I started to learn about the difficulties that service men and woman who were in the closet had to go through. Don't ask don't tell!

It was hard to maintain a relationship where we constantly looked over our shoulders to make sure that no one from his command or any one he knew was around or watching. It was scary to say the least wondering if today was going to be the day that our world came crashing down around us. Then proposition 8 was introduced to the people of California and passed with 52% majority, another blow to the LGBT community but when we thought all had been lost, our community pulled together and we marched, that night we marched on Hollywood and Highland, through tear gas and dogs, police with batons and bean bag guns. We marched on silver lake and finally we marched on city hall. It would be a little more than 5 years after those rallies that proposition 8 would be overturned and then dismissed on appeal by the Supreme Court, the walls had finally started to come down.

Soon after that don't ask don't tell was repealed and then DOMA at the same time. States rallied together and it became a domino effect, New jersey is the most recent of that domino effect. The Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta got the ball rolling for the military and started to implement changes that could effectively allow same sex couples and single same sex military member who wanted to get married to serve openly and proudly as well as receive benefits including BAH and dependant support, Tricare, and death benefits. The current Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel has continued Mr. Panetta's legacy and has continued to Champion the cause for Marriage Equality from a military stand point, allowing gays and lesbian to marry in other states outside the ones that they are stationed at if those states that they are stationed at do not allow gay marriage.

I am a United States Sailor; I proudly serve my country something that I have dreamed of since my mother served. I protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and we as a people have to understand that we are all different; we come from different regions of the world, different religions, different societies, different backgrounds and different lives but there's one thing we all have in common, one thing we all look for in someone else, one thing we crave as human beings something we cannot live without and that is love. My love for my boyfriend is strong and I intend to marry him one day but I cannot do that here in Hawaii until equality is passed; love is not discriminatory nor is it biased, it treats everyone the same with no difference in color or race, height or weight, age and/or gender. I implore you members of this committee show good faith and duty to your country; show the good people of Hawaii that this state can see that love has no prejudice and that it welcomes everyone. You made history by starting this movement, how will history judge this moment in time when Hawaii debates whether it should become the 15th state in the union to allow marriage equality, how will you judge this moment in your life, what will you say to yourself or your children in 10, 15, or 20 years down the road knowing you have the opportunity to make a difference in so many lives, right now. What if the lives of your "Ohana" could be changed forever by the decisions you make here today. The bible speaks of love and it also speaks of judging others, do not judge me by whom I love but judge me based on the content of my character, judge me based on my actions and not by whom I share my bed with.

There is a man who currently sits in the oval office, who grew up on this very island he made history by advocating change, in as little over a year ago he became the 1st and only President to openly support marriage equality, I stand next to him as his supporter and I proudly serve as one of his sailors as well as one of yours but In the words of President Obama:

"…that their voices could be that difference. It's the answer spoken by young and old, rich and poor, Democrat and Republican, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, gay, straight, disabled and not disabled. Americans who sent a message to the world that we have never been just a collection of individuals or a collection of red states and blue states.

We are, and always will be, the United States of America."

Members of the committee show the rest of the country that Hawaii is united in its cause to promote freedom, equality and most importantly love.

Please try to ignore all the special interest groups, religious groups, mainland right-wing groups pushing hateful messages upon the people of Hawaii and do the right thing during the special session.

Please pass SB1 as quickly as possible so we can continue living with Aloha and respect for other people who might be different that "us".

The people that oppose equal rights are the same people that oppreseed people through the ages and they are using the same arguments that were used to oppose women's rights, minority rights and they often do that in the name of religion.

But it's not my religion to oppress other people or deny them the same rights that everybody else enjoys. Those that oppose this measure on religious grounds are using religion to their advantage. Nobody is forcing same-sex marriage on any religious institution with SB1.

I suspect it will be very noisy in the capital next week during these hearings.

Please do the right thing.

End this fight by supporting SB1 now.

Thank You,
David Kahn
Makawao, HI

I am opposed to this bill for three reasons.

First, marriage between a man and a woman is the foundational unit of our civilization. No one can or has the right to change that. A home led by a man and a woman, legally married, is the ideal environment for raising children. No other system can adequately substitute for it.

Second, the current draft does not provide enough protection for invidivual religious freedom. While it does preserve some rights for churches (which is good), religious freedoms for individuals and businesses are not sufficiently addressed. I will cite two examples. Adoption agencies should not be forced to place children with same-sex couples. Private businesses should not be required to extend family discounts to same-sex couples.

Third, this legislative session seeks to overturn the voice of the people. In 1998 the people of Hawaii voted to preserve marriage as an institution between a man and a woman. Any changes to that should again be put to a direct vote by the people.

Thank you for your time.

Maria P. Draper
55-568 Naniloa Loop #9C
Laie, HI 96762

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am **opposing Same Sex Marraige** because of our heartfelt concern and compassion for the future of our state. I concern over the physical, mental and emotional problems that will beset those who choose the homosexual lifestyle, and I object to what this will do to our community, the children and to our traditional family life. Evidence clearly show that children must be raised in a traditional family environment to thrive and to grow.

In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, **please vote NO** on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

Sincerely,

Pui Shan Ng

I am opposed to this bill for three reasons.

First, marriage between a man and a woman is the foundational unit of our civilization. No one can or has the right to change that. A home led by a man and a woman, legally married, is the ideal environment for raising children. No other system can adequately substitute for it.

Second, the current draft does not provide enough protection for invidivual religious freedom. While it does preserve some rights for churches (which is good), religious freedoms for individuals and businesses are not sufficiently addressed. I will cite two examples. Adoption agencies should not be forced to place children with same-sex couples. Private businesses should not be required to extend family discounts to same-sex couples.

Third, this legislative session seeks to overturn the voice of the people. In 1998 the people of Hawaii voted to preserve marriage as an institution between a man and a woman. Any changes to that should again be put to a direct vote by the people.

Thank you for your time.

Geoffrey Draper
55-568 Naniloa Loop #9C
Laie, HI 96762

Aloha Kakou,

My name is Eva Kuʻuipo Hubbard. I live in Nānākuli and I am from Nuʻuanu. I speak on behalf of family and friends throughout the islands to address the concerns we have with SB 1. Having researched comprehensively, attending several workshops, community meetings and speaking extensively with relatives and friends, the decision was very clear of the compounding, devastating affects this will have on my family, my community, the education system, the cultural and traditional systems and on my Hawaiʻi. With the constant changes to our culture, our Hawaiian society is being diminished and diluted, continually suffocated in philosophy, in traditions, and in religions by the influences of ideologies that have been introduced to this government.

I have examined the results and devastating effects this decision has had on our different states, in other countries and Canada, but the most controversial and impacting result was made in their education system and on their children as this same agenda was introduced. Are we willing to open the door to curriculum with blatant, graphic and descriptive adult acts that would be taught to children 5 years and younger? Whether through books, videos, or discussions the fact of the matter is that details of all lifestyles are made available to be mandatory for teachers in the schools and are being taught at that very young age.

Will we let others from outside of our state rule and dictate to the people of Hawaii how we should lead and govern? Have we come to the conclusion that the leaders of Hawaii cannot make simple decisions reflecting the hearts, the hearts of the Hawaiian people, the people of Hawaii, that we must be persuaded, coerced or pressured to agree with the majority. I think not. We value and honor the decisions you make, we think highly of you and respect that which you agree to help benefit all that Hawaii is and what Hawaii can become and will become as an example to the world. Who among you will hear these lessons from the past and see the ruin that awaits you in the future? (Isaiah 42:23) If you take away the heart of the Hawaiian people what do you have left…… I implore and ask of you my fellow natives, you leaders of Hawaiʻi to let the people decide, for our children, our keiki. Please do not dictate to us what so many states and nations are already doing. Is there no justice? Is there no justice? The histories of our islands lie in the values and decisions that were made by our kings and queens. One last political request by Princess Kaʻiulani made at a banquet was to ask that her people were able to vote. All we are asking is that you allow the voters of Hawaii that decision.

I thank you for your hard earned efforts in all that you are doing for us. I appreciate you and am grateful for your endurance and your perseverance through the trials, the sacrifices and choices you make every day. Thank you. Mahalo nui maoli ʻoia. Aloha ahui hou, mālama pono. Ke Akua pu.

The SB1 bill should be approved and put into place in the state of Hawaii. All same sex couples have a right to marry whoever they want. In the United States of America people are allowed to believe what they want whether or not others disagree. Therefore it is unconstitutional to hinder gays rights. However, gay couples should not be able to marry in a church if it goes against the church's religion. Therefore pastors and priests should be protected by that rule so no one can take them to court for refusing marrying a same sex couple. In many religions, same sex marriage isn't allowed therefore making churches marry same sex couples will violate there constitutional right to freedom of religion.

Hawaii has been supportive of gay rights since 1996 when the trial between Baehr vs. Mike emerged. It was the first high court ruling in favor of marriage equality. However, it only agreed that no marriage equality is discrimination but no marriage equality rules came into law. Ergo a time for change has come and the court shall finally allow same sex marriages.

To the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Testimony regarding Senate Bill 1 (SB1)

Hearing to be held on Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.

I will not be testifying in person.

I am against bill SB-1Marriage is between a man and a woman. Same-sex *marriage* should not be the goal. Marriage is not a civil right, it is a religious institution. Marriage is between a man and a woman as established by God. I am not against civil unions which recognize same-sex unions in regards to the laws of the land, however redefining marriage and infringing on religious freedom is attacking an ideal that this country was founded upon. Separation of God and State should be upheld here.

At the very least, the people of Hawaii deserve the right to vote on such a polarizing subject and not have their voices swept aside by the few. And at the very least, I ask you to take this issue to the people for a fair vote.

Sincerely,

Kami Yuen
Laie, Hawaii 96762

<u>For the Senate hearing</u>: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any same-sex marriage issue.

Same-sex marriage is not a civil right. No court (including the United States Supreme Court) has ever said that same-sex marriage is civil right. In 2002, the **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** rejected the complaint that New Zealand banned same-sex marriage violating civil right.

It is my opinion that the issue of same-sex marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same-sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people.

Please let the people decide on marriage.

On our very own island of O‘ahu in 1991, during Baehr v. Miike, the Supreme Court of Hawaii was the first state supreme court in the nation to acknowledge that homosexuals had the constitutional right to marriage, and that depriving them of said right was discrimination. Several courts prior to and since this case have established that “marriage is one of the ‘basic civil rights of man’” (Loving v. Virginia), therefore to deprive a defined group the right to marriage is in clear violation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States’ Constitution.

Acknowledging the dissenters who argue that same-sex marriage is a violation of their religious freedom (a right granted by the First Amendment and thereby holding the same relative power as the Fourteenth Amendment), SB1 has allowed religious institutions to refuse to solemnize same-sex marriages. Putting this bill into effect would not infringe on the people’s First Amendment rights, but letting it die would infringe on their Fourteenth Amendment rights.

Decades of empirical studies have shown that homosexual couples are just as capable of being loving and nurturing and protective and supportive as heterosexual ones. The family unit is not intended for procreation because infertile individuals can marry. A child does not need a mom and a dad to be successful because the President of the United States only had a mom. There is no consistent empirical evidence that homosexual couples are in any way inferior to heterosexual couples. There is no reason that same-sex couples should not be granted their constitutional rights.

We ball began rolling over a decade ago in 1991. It is time to finish what we have started.

Addressing the Marriage Equality Bill:
Richard T. Bair and Mililani Bair strongly oppose this bill on the basis that:

1) Same sex marriage should not be passed in a special session because:
a. A five-six day session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time.
b. No amendments can be made to legislation. As a result, true democracy is made a mockery of.
c. Hawaii is the only State rushing into special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision. If the need was truly dire, then why haven't the other 34 states that do not permit same-sex marriage done so?
d. A "yes" vote during special session is a "no" vote to democracy because the voice of the people is NOT heard in a five-six day special session, especially if that voice is "amend the bill".
e. The so-called religious exemption language is rendered invalid because of the public accommodation carve out.
f. The people believed they voted on this issue in 1998.

We strongly urge Legislators to respect fundamental democratic principles as:

1) The People believed they addressed the issue in 1998 and should be the ones consulted again.
2) Marriage is not a civil right, and no court, including the Supreme Court, has ever said that it is.
3) A Constitutional amendment would better address same-sex marriage and allow for ample public input.

As Hawaii State residents and voters we would like to add our voices to the many who have strongly spoken out and respectfully ask that our rights as voters we heard. This issue is so volatile that is can split the unity of our State and families within these Islands. In the Spirit of Aloha we add our voices and ask that this bill be killed and this Special Session ended.

Mahalo for hearing the people of Hawaii,

Richard T. Bair
Mililani Bair
PO Box 654
Keaau, Hawaii 96749

Ciera Kuʻuleimomi Cummings
P.O. Box 22069
Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96823

October 24, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hon. Clayton Hee, Chair
Hon. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Hon. Mike Gabbard
Hon. Brickwood Galuteria
Hon. Les Ihara, Jr.
Hon. Sam Slom
Hon. Mālama Solomon

Re: Testimony IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

Honorable Chair Hee and committee members:

My name is Ciera Kuʻuleimomi Cummings. I was born and raised on Kauaʻi and currently reside in Honolulu. I am a Native Hawaiian educator and advisor of the student organization P.R.I.D.E. ("People Respecting Individuality and Diversity in Everyone"). My ʻohana is just one of hundreds of local families who will be strengthened by the protection and affirmation afforded to us through the recognition of our unions. Therefore, I write in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1.**

I write as a member of many communities: Native Hawaiian, Filipino, Okinawan, Christian, and LGBTQ. Although these identities are often presented in contradiction, Native Hawaiians, Filipinos and many indigenous peoples traditionally accepted and revered individuals with non-normative gender identity and attraction. We see the last vestiges of opposition to same-sex marriage are rooted in Christian ideology, even though a rigorous reading of scripture does not in any way oppose the type of committed relationships solemnized in marriage. Thus, we must acknowledge that any argument in opposition of same-sex marriage, from the egregious to the oblivious, is based in malicious bias or prejudice masquerading as culture or religion.

My partner Kathryn and I both watched helplessly as our mothers battle Breast Cancer. So when Kathryn discovered a suspicious mass and couldn't be treated using my health insurance, I was devastated. I am not asking for special consideration; I simply want the same opportunity as my siblings and neighbors: to provide my family the best care possible.

One might think Civil Unions are sufficient, but until you have been limited to a Civil Union as your only option, you cannot fully understand why it will not suffice. We exist in a separate class, cumbersomely and often reluctantly recognized in a legal sense, but painfully ostracized from our married peers in a social and cultural sense. This piece of legislation is not a cure-all for the many injustices the LGBTQ community suffers, including harassment, discrimination, and rejection by families and churches, but it's a step in the right direction.

As Hawaiʻi's leaders, you are entrusted with the kuleana to do what is pono for our entire community. I encourage you to look into your naʻau and consider the peaceful and just world you want to shape for our keiki and moʻopuna. I am confident you will arrive at the same conclusion: that voting in favor of SB1 is the right thing to do.

Mālama Pono,

Ciera Kuʻuleimomi Cummings

To The Committee on Judiciary and Labor
SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013
TIME: 10:30A.M.

Written testimony **opposing** the gay marriage bill. I will not be testifying in person.

I find it outrageous that gay rights groups from outside of our State are lobbying our representatives and senators to pass a gay marriage bill. These people, according to the Honolulu Star Advertiser, have spent thousands of dollars to try to sway our local representatives and senators.

This bill would affect ***ALL*** the people of Hawaii. Why are we catering to a small group of people. They ARE NOT being discriminated against. They hold jobs, eat at restaurants, shop where ever they want, go to the movies, travel, rent and buy houses, go to the church of their choice, chose whatever medical they want, etc. Since there is no constitutional right to marry, there is no discrimination.

The Supreme Court ruled that same sex couples were being discriminated against by the ***Federal government***. The lesbian and gay community need to stop fighting for marriage in the States. They need to take their fight to the Federal government via the U.S. Congress; get the Federal Tax Codes changed to recognize civil unions. Stop dividing communities.

Since our governor is so sympathetic to their economic situation, he should write and submit a bill to our representatives in Washington, D.C. on their behalf, to change the Tax Code so that Civil Union partners can file jointly on their Federal Tax Return.

In 1998, the people decided. If that constitutional amendment accorded the Legislature the right to **"redefine marriage"** as necessary, then the amendment on the ballot must have purposely been written to mislead the people.

Do not be disingenuous. Let the people decide if the legislature has the right to redefine marriage. Take this issue to the polls again. This time be very clear and offer two options:

1: ***"the legislature again defines that marriage is between one man and one woman. This definition may not be changed except through constitutional amendment."***
2: "the legislature redefines marriage as being between two individuals of the opposite sex OR of the same sex, who are not related to each other by blood or half-blood."

Thank you.

October 26, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in ***OPPOSITION*** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

According to an article on page A-13 of the September 20 edition of the Wall Street Journal, same-sex marriage legislation has had a devastating impact on citizens who decline to serve same-sex ceremonies due to religious conflicts. For example:

- A florist in Richland, Washington, was sued by the State Attorney General and the American Civil Liberties Union.
- A Christian couple that owns a bakery in Gresham, Oregon closed their shop because the State launched an investigation into their religious objections.
- The New Mexico Supreme Court upheld a $6,637 fine against Elane Photography, stating that being "compelled by law to compromise the very religious beliefs that inspire their lives" was "the price of citizenship."
- Many County recorders, magistrates, judges, town clerks, and justices of the peace in Iowa, Massachusetts, and New York have resigned because they were told that refusing to perform services for same-sex couples will result in criminal prosecutions for misdemeanors or other sanctions.

This legislation will have little effect on the civil rights of the estimated 5% of Hawaii's residents who identify themselves as gay or lesbian, because they can travel to any one of the fourteen states or the District of Columbia, which have adopted same-sex marriage legislation, to get married. However, it will have a catastrophic effect on the First Amendment rights of the 95% of Hawaii's residents who identify themselves as religious.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,

Jolyne Oyama
Naalehu 96772

Kyle N. M. Chang
111 Hoolako Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Fax: (808) 586-7334

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it includes provisions of parentage presumptions based on marriage for same-sex couples that would transfer Native Hawaiian ethnicity claims to Non-Native Hawaiian individuals.

In S.B. 1, section 572 C Right of parents, it reads, *"Parentage rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities based on marriage shall be the same for all married spouses regardless of the gender of the spouses. These rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities shall include paternity, maternity and parentage presumptions based on marriage."*

In every instance in a same-sex marriage, at least one of the partners is not the biological parent of the child. In other cases, both partners are not the biological parent. However, as a consequence of parentage presumptions applied, the benefits reserved for Native Hawaiians will be transferred to Non-Native Hawaiian children.

In the Preamble of our Hawaii Constitution it states, "We, the people of Hawaii, grateful for Divine Guidance, and mindful of our Hawaiian heritage and uniqueness as an island State, dedicate our efforts to fulfill the philosophy decreed by the Hawaii State motto, "Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono." The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.

As a Native Hawaiian, I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1.

Warmest mahalo,

Kyle N. M. Chang

Ruth Foster Chang
111 Hoolako Place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Fax: (808) 586-7334

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it includes provisions of parentage presumptions based on marriage for same-sex couples that would transfer Native Hawaiian ethnicity claims to Non-Native Hawaiian individuals.

I am Native Hawaiian. S.B. 1 will have a profound negative impact on Native Hawaiians now and in the future. I ask you to vote NO on S.B. 1 to prevent this from happening.

Sincerely,

Ruth Foster Chang

Dear Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my **opposition** to Bill SB1.

The reasons for my opposition of redefining marriages because

(1) It's contrary to our fundamental religious beliefs.
(2) It will harm children, families, and society. Numerous empirical studies over many decades establish that children develop best when raised by a father and mother in a stable marriage relationship.
(3) It will reduce our religious freedoms. If same-sex marriage has been legalized, school will start teaching the new definition of marriage and children will be ostracized if they openly disagree based on their family's religious beliefs. Potentials lawsuits will be brought against individuals, churches and businesses. Religious groups that provide family-related services such as adoption will be stripped of the State licenses.

After carefully reading and studying the Bill, I honestly believe that the Bill will **NOT** provide any benefits for both religious and homosexual people. It's a lose-lose situation. If this Bill passed, it will greatly enlarge the disharmony between both groups as the Bill unfairly taking out the freedom from the religious group. As a result, a greater disharmony, or even contention and hatred will rise up between both groups. For me, religious freedom also means our church leaders have the right to decide who and on what occasion to use the church facilities based on the church handbook and guidelines. However, the bill took away this right from our church leaders to decide. Based on the bill, once our facilities are open to non-members, then the facilities are not protected by the exemptions. The bill provides no protections against lawsuits seeking to force religiously affiliated organizations with sincere religious objections to accommodate celebrations, receptions, parties, and other events associated with same-sex marriages.

In order to be fair for both religious and homosexual groups, I am sincerely asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jared Wong

Mililani, HI, 96789

There have been numerous testimony about equal rights by Civil Unions supporters as well as SSM supporters. I am against SSM but I do support what has already been passed in Civil Unions. I believe that, as it was passed, Civil Union couples should be afforded the rights of married couples especially in reference to Federal Benefits. To have passed Civil Unions without including the marriage benefits part would have be a slap in the face to the C.U. supporters. It is what they were asking for and was part of their main arguments for equality.

If by some chance this law does not cover marital benefits for C.U. couples then fix it. Make the wording to include all of the benefits of a married couple. It is what was expected when this passed and should've been included. But to redefine marriage just to fix a faulty law is irresponsible.

If it is needed, fix the law to give Civil Union couples something tangible as far as equality (benefits). It is a quality of life issue for C.U. couples. The feelings, for each other, will not change whether it is a marriage, Civil Union, or Reciprocal Beneficiary. What does make the difference in their lives is if they are able to have the same benefits as Married couples. This should have been already addressed in C.U.

I don't believe that it is our government's place to redefine marriage. Marriage is defined in the Bible. Christians, with good reason, see SSM as the opening of Pandora's box when it comes to our religious freedom. With all do respect, Government does not have a good track record when it comes to after affects of laws passed. Obamacare is a prime example of something that was not properly thought through and passed and it is literally blowing up in people's face. The promises made are non-existent. We are heading down the same path with this and it does no justice for either side. There is no need for this special session and there are alternative bills in the waiting for the regular session. Rushing this through via special session does a disservice to everyone in Hawaii.

Please do not support this bill up for special session. There are other bills to look over in the next session. Either that or let the people decide.

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date and Time: October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I am resident of Hawaii who joins with the vast majority of Hawaii residents in supporting Marriage Equality. It is crucial that all families have the same rights and protections under law. All couples deserve to have their relationship recognized and valued and to have access to the same benefits. I have seen too many gay and lesbian couples suffer emotionally, financially and legally due to inequity from disparate treatment by the government. Civil Unions are not enough. Civil unions allow for second-class citizenship and do not ensure the same respect and rights as marriage. Increasingly more states are recognizing the necessity of this important legislation and we should follow in this this direction that allows for freedom for all. We must remember that we are all one Ohana and should treat all members equally. Please support this law that will allow all couples to express their love and commitment through marriage.

Most importantly, I want to emphasize that passing the legislation for same-sex marriage teaches our youth that everyone deserves equal treatment and that discrimination is not tolerated in our state. I hope for the children growing up in Hawaii to learn that our government ensures equal rights for gay and lesbian couples. If we want our children to stop bullying and discriminating against others, then we must make sure our laws truly reflect the promotion of equality.

I am confident that Hawaiian legislators will support a path to justice by voting in support of marriage equality. It has been too long of a wait for gay and lesbian couples and the time is now to ensure that equality for all couples is recognized here in Hawaii.

Thank you very much for your time and the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Laura Schuetze
500 University Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96826

Lance Takai
PO Box 5236
Hilo, Hi 96720

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

RE: Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a concerned parent and a resident born and raised in Hawai'i, I would like to urge the Senate to allow the people of Hawai'i to vote on the Marriage Equality Act of 2013. This is not just a bill that affects an individual or a group of people; this bill would affect the entire State of Hawai'i.

Our Governor has stated that by passing this bill, it would raise more money for Hawai'i. Have we asked ourselves, if this bill passes what would be the cost to the state, county and private firms to implement this bill?

Who does this bill protect? I do not see an equal side to this, if the people of Hawai'i does not get a fair vote on this bill? We trust in you standing up for the people and that is why we voted for you. Aren't the residents of Hawai'i the ones who families created Hawai'i through their heritage and culture? Don't you think these are the residents you need to hear?

Who is this bill really for? Is it for Hawai'i? We have been sign waving with many of you're own constituents and we have seen the support of Hawai'i get behind us. We have also had unruly comments and gestures from people who only now are starting to call Hawai'i their home. I believe if you had seen the overwhelming support of your people to let the people vote on marriage, you would and should be proud to call Hawai'i your home.

Hawai'i is not open for business. There's a term amongst friends that people use to those who are only in it for the money and not their own family or people (pardon me), the term is "Sell Out". I leave you with this and this is what Hawai'i was founded on, "**Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono",** "The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness". In other words, righteousness amongst our people brings life to the land. It is the People who make Hawai'i. Let the People Decide on Marriage!

Thank you,

Lance Takai

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY 26 Oct 2013

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

As an active registered voter it is of great concern to why this Bill has been called to a special session in our state without the normal procedures to pass a bill. Our trust in our law makers is first and foremost in in healthy democracy. I "urgently" request your vote of no in opposition of this SB. Please let the people decide on this important matter.

I trust you will make the right decision,

Robert J. Santos

Labor Caucus

October 28, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Capital
415 South Beretania Street, Room 016
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: S.B. No.1, Hearing on October 28, 2013 Testimony in Support.

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, and the Committee on Judiciary and Labor.

Aloha, my name is Steve Canales, and I strongly support S.B. 1, Relating To Equal Rights.

The Labor Caucus believes every individual must have the same equal rights. We support marriage equality and benefits to all same sex couples.

We the Labor Caucus **strongly support** S.B. 1. I would like to thank, the Committee on Judiciary and Labor for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Steve Canales
Labor Caucus Chair
Democratic Party of Hawaii
1050 Ala Moana Blvd. Ste. #2150
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Written Only Testimony
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Second Special Session
S.B. NO. 1 - Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Monday, October 28, 2013 10:30am

Good afternoon JDL committee members. As a registered voter and father I am opposed to S.B. NO.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Our voices were overwhelmingly heard back in 1998 and marriage was defined to be between one man and one woman. I believe the majority of the people of Hawaii have confirmed and reaffirmed this position over the years. At the very least, we again should be given the opportunity to exercise our democratic rights through the voting process.

I have deep concerns about how gay rights and same sex issues will be presented in our schools and it's influence on our children. I want to make it clear that I do not condemn gay people or their views, but I do not condone them. I am fearful of how people with influence over our children, namely teachers and other educators, will integrate same sex marriage teachings into their classrooms. As a parent we should have control over how our children are exposed to important issues such as these and the influence it has upon them. We should also have the reassurance that homosexuality is not being advocated to our children. As far as I can tell there is nothing to address any of these issues in this current form of the bill.

As elected officials, I ask that you hear the collective voices of your constituents and the people of Hawaii. This special session has a rush feeling to it. An issue as controversial and important as same sex marriage is not to be rushed to decision, especially when the result could be destroying the sanctity of traditional marriage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chad Taira

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

First, let me say that I do support equal rights for all, but I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I do understand that if this goes to public vote, it may pass. I would feel much better about it then. But, not as it is currently written. There should be more protections for people who do not agree with this bill for religious reasons. The way it is written currently leaves may opportunities for religious freedoms to be violated. I am not just referring to religious leaders, but also to the people.

I also believe that the process should take longer than a week to decide for something of this magnitude. Please consider hearing this bill during the regular session instead so that it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jessica Plummer
Honolulu, Hi 96826

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Co-Chairman
Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
From: Lisa Yoshimura
Date: October 28, 2013

Re: Testimony Opposing SB 1 Marriage Equality

My name is Lisa Yoshimura. I strongly oppose SB 1 for the primary reason that a homosexual marriage law will never work because it runs counter to God's laws and the moral fabric of our society. When we choose to live by man's standards rather than God's laws, we can expect disaster.

I wish today, however, to focus my testimony on the injustice of this Special Session. Convening this Special Session with the obvious intent of passing the homosexual marriage bill in five days is an affront to our U.S. Constitution and to the citizens of Hawaii. Clearly, the lengthy legislative system was established for good reason. While it may be an arduous process, it provides an "as fair as possible" means for the people to participate in crafting laws that would govern them. Circumventing this democratic process to force enactment of a contentious law with devastating consequences is egregious to the people of Hawaii.

Regardless of whether individuals agree or disagree on this Bill, many do agree that convening this Special Session is an arrogant act by our legislators and Governor.

I strongly urge you to cancel this Special Session and allow We the People the opportunity to discuss this critical issue during the Regular Legislative Session and to vote on traditional marriage in Hawaii by way of a constitutional amendment. Thank you.

Aloha,

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am a person of faith. I love my family, and am striving to provide the best life I possibly can for them. I have found for myself the importance of the family unit. Its structure and dimensions are divinely designed and when properly utilized, they secure peace and happiness not just to the individual family but to society as a whole. I have witnessed this truth in the family I grew up in as well as families I have come to know throughout my lifetime. I am also a student of science. I seek logical explanations and skeptically await the evidence to support theory as it is presented in its various forms. It has been made clearly evident, that although a man may be exceptionally nurturing, it takes a mother, in the truest sense of the word to fulfill the role of a mom. Likewise a woman is an extremely capable being who can direct and protect her family with valor. Yet when carefully observed, it still takes a father to be a dad. I submit my witness that the traditional family unit is vital to success of a society and a culture as a whole. The latter will not be realized without the protection of the former. That being said, as a man of faith I know without a shadow of a doubt that God loves His children and has blessed them with the ability to choose for themselves how they live their life. Understanding this truth enables me to be not only tolerant but loving to those who practice a homosexual lifestyle. Essentially my feeling toward this bill can be summed as follows: “(I) claim the privilege of worshiping the Almighty God according to the dictates of (my) own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege.” The writing of this bill allows for equality regarding the rights and benefits of marriage, but it does not protect religious freedoms that are at the root of this great nation. How do we justify sacrificing freedoms to grant other freedoms? Surely we can do better than this.

Respectfully, Zach Hall

October 26, 2013

To: Chair Senator Clayton Hee
Vice Chair Senator Maile Shimabukuro
and Members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee

RE: In **Strong OPPOSITION to SB1,** relating to "Equal Rights"

Hearing Day and Date: Monday, October 28, 2013

Hearing Time & Place: 10:30 a.m. in the Hawai'i State Capitol Auditorium

My name is Lynne Kasaoka and attend Mililani Missionary Church and I am a registered voter in the State of Hawaii. This is my testimony regarding my STRONG OPPOSITION to SB1. Additionally, I am a preschool teacher at Mililani Missionary Preschool, an extension of the church who teaches Bible study to 3-4 year olds here at the school.

I oppose SB1 because the passage of this bill would greatly restrict the religious freedom of the people of Hawaii and such enactment would eventually violate the constitutional rights of the people. The First Amendment of our US Constitution clearly states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech…" The passage of SB1, as recent history has shown, would eventually nullify our first three constitutional rights of the First Amendment.

First, although the intent of this bill is not to establish a state or government religion, the passage of such a bill would establish a belief system that will be imposed upon the will of the people regardless if they agree with it or not.

Second, the passage of SB1 would greatly prohibit our ability to freely exercise our religion as guaranteed by the Constitution. There are numerous cases across the United States (including Hawaii) where parents, school teachers, and businesses were denied their Constitutional right to freely practice their faith. These people of faith were often penalized, fined, disciplined or fired because they could not in good conscience approve same-sex marriage or disagreed with the promoting of homosexual teachings and materials.

Thirdly, as a person who believes in and teaches the Bible, the passage of SB1 will inevitably take away my freedom of speech. Our fundamental right to "freedom of speech" will be greatly limited in the near future if SB1 is enacted.

It is truly unfortunate that any disagreement to the acceptance of homosexuality is automatically determined to be "hateful" and "bigoted." There is no middle ground where both sides can agree to disagree, and tolerance appears to be only one-sided. If equality is truly the goal of this bill, then we must ensure that equal rights will be extended to ALL and not just a select group of people.

A bill of this magnitude, surrounded by such controversy needs more time to be discussed than the time allotted in a special session. If both sides are to be heard and both sides are to be protected, then it is imperative that we do not rush this bill through in a Special Session.

That is why I strongly oppose this Special Session and the passage of SB1. I urge you to please consider my testimony and to vote 'NO' on SB1.

Sincerely,

Lynne Kasaoka
95-1021 Paepae St
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

October 27, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

Redefining marriage not only affects the estimated 5% of Hawai'i residents who identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian, but will change society forever for the other 95% of Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. I believe that the 95% of the people deserve to have their rights to remain intact and should have the ability to live their lives in freedom.

If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that **sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon**. Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is common knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

I believe that if the people were to vote they would vote in opposition to this legislation.
For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
Dave Heaton
PO Box 1483
Honoka'a, HI 96727

There have been numerous testimony about equal rights by Civil Unions supporters as well as SSM supporters. I am against SSM but I do support what has already been passed in Civil Unions. I believe that, as it was passed, Civil Union couples should be afforded the rights of married couples especially in reference to Federal Benefits. To have passed Civil Unions without including the marriage benefits part would have be a slap in the face to the C.U. supporters. It is what they were asking for and was part of their main arguments for equality.

If by some chance this law does not cover marital benefits for C.U. couples then fix it. Make the wording to include all of the benefits of a married couple. It is what was expected when this passed and should've been included. But to redefine marriage just to fix a faulty law is irresponsible.

If it is needed, fix the law to give Civil Union couples something tangible as far as equality (benefits). It is a quality of life issue for C.U. couples. The feelings, for each other, will not change whether it is a marriage, Civil Union, or Reciprocal Beneficiary. What does make the difference in their lives is if they are able to have the same benefits as Married couples. This should have been already addressed in C.U.

I don't believe that it is our government's place to redefine marriage. Marriage is defined in the Bible. Christians, with good reason, see SSM as the opening of Pandora's box when it comes to our religious freedom. With all do respect, Government does not have a good track record when it comes to after affects of laws passed. Obamacare is a prime example of something that was not properly thought through and passed and it is literally blowing up in people's face. The promises made are non-existent. We are heading down the same path with this and it does no justice for either side. There is no need for this special session and there are alternative bills in the waiting for the regular session. Rushing this through via special session does a disservice to everyone in Hawaii.

Please do not support this bill up for special session. There are other bills to look over in the next session. Either that or let the people decide.

ADDENDUM TO RUSHFORTH TESTIMONY (24 OCT 13) ON S.B. 1, DATED OCT 28 2013, TITLED "THE SENATE" TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2013; SECOND SPECIAL SESSION, STATE OF HAWAII. "RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS."

THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL "LAY PERSON" (Voter) COMMENTS ARE OFFERED:

1. **SECTION 1, page 2, (3) (A).** Why would anyone trust your language that supposedly honors the "Hawaii State Constitution," when you have tortured the legal intent of "Hawaii Constitution Amendment 2" to mean that the Legislature can define & "solumnize" marriage any way it wants, any time it wants?? It is clear that these feeble attempts to make us believe that the Legislature will not intrude upon religious prerogatives are meaningless at best, disingenuous at worst.
2. After declaring that "Marriage" is whatever the Legislature says it is, what is the Legislative intent and status of the "Hawaii Constitution Amendment 2," that states "The legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples?"
    - If we leave Amendment 2 on the books, after declaring "Same Sex Marriage" as the law of the land in Hawaii, we'll be the jurisprudence laughing stock of the country.
3. **Legislative Power:** Is it true, that if we accept the legal shenanigans of the Governor and the Legislature, giving the Legislature all power for definition of Marriage, that (with no public input) the Legislature can now just as easily declare that polygamy is the law of the land in Hawaii?
4. **Definition of FAMILY**: Since the "Family Court" has jurisdiction over all activities and legal relationships addressed in S.B. 1, the definition of "Family" is changed in a defacto way to mean any relationship being defined in S.B. No. 1? (male/female, same sex marriage, and civil unions of all kinds will now be Families).
5. Can we assume that the personal relationships described in S.B. No.1 apply to all Persons/Residents of Hawaii equally and without exception (such as for any religion that allows polygamy? – OR – Will polygamy soon be the Law of the Land in Hawaii? (I'm not thinking MORMON. I'm thinking MUSLIM!)
6. **SECTION 3, Page 6, x572-1, Requisites of valid marriage contract (1)**. Laws about marriage "Blood Relationship" restrictions have been accepted for all of human history. However, that same logic does not apply to "Same Sex marriage," since no children will result from their conjugal relationships. Logically, that restriction should be removed from the "Same Sex Marriage" legal restrictions to their marriage contract?? Anyone can "marry" anyone else of the same sex! If not? Why not? Really!

ADDENDUM TO RUSHFORTH TESTIMONY (24 OCT 13) ON S.B. 1, DATED OCT 28 2013, TITLED "THE SENATE" TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2013; SECOND SPECIAL SESSION, STATE OF HAWAII. "RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS."

7. **SECTION 3, Page 6, x572-1, Requisites of valid marriage contract (2)**. **Minimum age for Marriage**: The Hawaii State minimum, Fifteen & 16 years old seems very young for children to be getting married. At that point in life they are totally dependent upon their parents or other adults. This paragraph states that the only approval required for these child marriages is from the "Family Court of the Circuit" within which the child (minor) resides. Common sense leads one to conclude that the parents and other adults responsible for the child should be involved?? After all, they will surely be left to pay the bills. The COURT certainly won't. Never mind any familial relationships that might be salvaged. Wait! The Court could take over responsibility for that young family, till death do they part!
8. **SECTION 4. x572-3 Contracted without the State.** This sentence, "Marriages between two individuals….. **"** makes no sense at all. You were obviously in a big hurry to get something on the street for this "Special Session."
9. **SECTION 2, page 5, X572-E Refusal to solemnize a marriage.** Not surprisingly, the first sentence in this paragraph is incomplete and makes no sense. This does not inspire confidence that much thought or even commitment has gone into the drafting of this document.
10. **SECTION 8. (f)x572C-2(f) Findings, Page 13, lines 11-14.** So – the rights and benefits presently available only to married couples are now to be made available to any two individuals who are legally prohibited from marrying one another. **This establishes the legal foundation for Mothers/dayghters, Fathers/sons and any other couple combo composed of same sex relationships to establish Civil Unions.** What a great Tax dodge. Leave that one to the people, they'll figure out how to use it best.
11. **Section 11, page16, line 5. (So- The Depaartment of Health is supposed to sort all this out later???)** "The Department of Health may in its discretion, make any changes that it deems necessary to internal procedures or forms, to aid in the implementation of this ACT." Huh! Does any thinking person think that will turn out in the best interest of anyone but the "department of health? We are again in a huge hurry to get this S.B. NO. 1 approved and into law as fast as possible. So – in this case, we won't know what the real impact of the Law is until the "Department of Health" (and who knows who else) adds the details. Meanwhile, it will be a done deal (the law of the land). Sound familiar??

TESTIMONY AGAINST SB1

I am asking you to please vote against SB1 because it does not represent my views and most of your constituents. This issue is not about "equality" by any means. I am not against equality. I am against changing the definition of marriage between one man and one woman.

I trust that you have polled your communities for their acceptance or rejection of this legislation. No matter which side had the majority, I ask you as a leader to consider the experience of other states who have already taken this road. I believe that your research will reveal a long list of unintended consequences as a result of establishing same sex marriage in Hawaii. Some rights will be forfeited.

I'm sending you a YouTube link to watch presented by MassResistance.org. I have attached the video transcript if you'd like to study it later. I apologize for the length of this material, but these points are only the highlights of what will be if you allow this law to pass.
In the YouTube video is described the following changes:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZX55HUPFSU

1) Businesses/Corporations; All insurance must recognize homosexual couples in their policies, and so must businesses. Employees have been fired for stating their views on homosexual marriage.

2) Wedding businesses are held liable for discrimination if they refuse to service homosexual couples on religious grounds.

3) Lawyers are tested on same-sex law as part of their bar exam. One fellow failed the exam because he refused to answer a question on homosexual marriage. Homosexual judges are overseeing Massachusetts Family Court.

4) Marriage licenses no longer say husband/wife, they say party A and party B.

5) Justices of the Peace ordered to perform same-sex marriages against their religious objections were led to resign

6) Climate of fear of public officials regarding all homosexual matters and intimidation of pro-family people.

7) During Gay Pride Week, officials pledge allegiance to the rainbow flag as it is raised above the capital building along with the state flag and the flag of the USA

8) April 2009, Republican Party went on record that they would no longer oppose homosexual issues

9) State adoption and foster care workers were forced to train LGBT youth awareness

10) 2006 Parents of the year were two men who adopted a child.

11) Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange has been pushing GLBT family formations and holds adoption parties

12) Birth certificates changed from mother and father to mother/first parent and father/first parent

13) Well over 40% of adoptions are to homosexual couples. How will their children survive?

14) on May 15, 2013 a Representative of the Massachusettes Dept of Children and Families told a Bar Association meeting that they (the dept) are weeding out adoptive and foster parents who are not willing to wholly accept and support GLBT self identification by a child in their care

15) Gay domestic violence now has it's own line item in the State government

16) Increase in sexually transmitted diseases

17) 2011 prominent physician objected to hospital's involvement of Gay Pride Week, threatened to be fired for harassment and discrimination

18) Any church or religious group who refuses to serve homosexuals for marriage

and on and on

I challenge you to admit that forces outside of Hawaii have come in and are making a loud noise over this issue. This is not much different than what took place in Hawaii's history when a chief from Tahiti named Pa'ao brought in the kapu system to Hawaii. There were blood sacrifices and the like until the system was banished from the islands by our Hawaiian royalty professing Christian values.

The shape of our families in Hawaii will change. No doubt. This law may be good for the gay community, but it will not be good for everyone else. Again, it's unhealthy and unwholesome and deceptive.

At the very least, I would ask that you say NO to this legislation and let the citizens decide.

And incidentally, what will we do with our state motto ("Ua mau ke ea o ka aina I ka pono") when righteousness is no longer our foundation?

Will our children benefit? No.

Thank you for your service to Hawaii,
Lorene Godfrey
1241 Ala Alii St., #117
Honolulu, HI 96818

Dear Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my **opposition** to Bill SB1.

The reasons for my opposition of redefining marriages because

(1) It's contrary to our fundamental religious beliefs.
(2) It will harm children, families, and society. Numerous empirical studies over many decades establish that children develop best when raised by a father and mother in a stable marriage relationship.
(3) It will reduce our religious freedoms. If same-sex marriage has been legalized, school will start teaching the new definition of marriage and children will be ostracized if they openly disagree based on their family's religious beliefs. Potentials lawsuits will be brought against individuals, churches and businesses. Religious groups that provide family-related services such as adoption will be stripped of the State licenses.

After carefully reading and studying the Bill, I honestly believe that the Bill will **NOT** provide any benefits for both religious and homosexual people. It's a lose-lose situation. If this Bill passed, it will greatly enlarge the disharmony between both groups as the Bill unfairly taking out the freedom from the religious group. As a result, a greater disharmony, or even contention and hatred will rise up between both groups. For me, religious freedom also means our church leaders have the right to decide who and on what occasion to use the church facilities based on the church handbook and guidelines. However, the bill took away this right from our church leaders to decide. Based on the bill, once our facilities are open to non-members, then the facilities are not protected by the exemptions. The bill provides no protections against lawsuits seeking to force religiously affiliated organizations with sincere religious objections to accommodate celebrations, receptions, parties, and other events associated with same-sex marriages.

In order to be fair for both religious and homosexual groups, I am sincerely asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Chui Fun Lee

Mililani, HI, 96789

The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i

The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick, Bishop

Date: October 26, 2013

RE: Testimony Regarding SB 1 urging positive action on Marriage Equality

The Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i (the annual gathering of 44 resident Episcopal ordained clergy and 136 lay delegates elected by the congregations) adopted the following resolution at our meeting today in the Cathedral of St. Andrew, Honolulu, Hawai‘i:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Annual Meeting of the Diocese of Hawai’i encourages the Hawai’i state legislature to pass the Marriage Equality bill that is being presented at a special session of the legislature, meeting October 28 – November 1, 2013.

The resolution was adopted by voice vote without a single “nay” vote.

As Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i, I, therefore, urge, on behalf of the Episcopal Church, the members of the legislature to enact legislation to ensure Marriage Equality as soon as possible.

Faithfully Submitted,

Robert L. Fitzpatrick, Bishop

229 QUEEN EMMA SQUARE • HONOLULU, HAWAI‘I 96813 • PHONE: (808) 536-7776

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am concerned that this bill is being fast-tracked through this special session without recognizing the voices of those who oppose it.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. Why not hold off until next January and allow the public time to weigh in on the issue with vigorous and healthy debate? Why not put the issue on a ballot and let the people decide once again, as was done back in 1998, where close to 80% of the vote was in favor of traditional marriage between and a a man and a woman?

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Diversity is a strength that we have here in Hawaii, and yes, our gay and lesbian friends and family members deserve our respect and aloha. However, there desire for same-sex marriage equality should not infringe on the constitutionally protected rights of those who believe in traditional marriage between and man and a woman. Affording them the same rights will essentially change the definition of marriage in a legal sense and this will, no doubt, have an adverse effect on our society and negatively impact the religious freedoms of others.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kahele Keawe
P.O Box 5
Anahola, HI 96703

October 26, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in ***OPPOSITION*** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

Redefining marriage not only affects the estimated 5% of Hawai'i residents who identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian, but will change society forever for the other 95% of Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE**!

If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that **sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon**. Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
James T. Oyama Jr.
Naalehu, 96772

Kat Brady
katbrady@hotmail.com

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Room 016
STRONG SUPPORT – SB 1 MARRIAGE EQUALITY

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

My name is Kat Brady and I am testifying as the Vice President of Citizens for Equal Rights (CFER) in strong support of marriage equality. CFER believes in equal rights for all. In Hawaii, those who came before us took bold steps towards passing on a legacy of equal rights and opportunity for all.

SB 1 recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex and extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

Allowing committed couples to share equally in federal benefits is the right thing to do.

Equality is defined as *"the state of being equal, esp. in status, rights, and opportunities."*

I urge everyone to step back and think about the words of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, whose consistent message is that **people are created to do good**. At the American Psychiatric Association meeting held in Honolulu in 2011 Archbishop Tutu said, *"We need each other, and anger and hatred and resentment are corrosive. And our world is waiting for such as you – reminding each one of us we are made for goodness, for gentleness, for compassion, for caring. That is when we are at our best."*

CFER and I respectfully urge this committee to pass SB 1 to continue Hawai`i's proud legacy of standing strong for equality and justice for all.

Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this important bill.

From: Jason Suemoto
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 7:04:28 PM

The right to marry should be afforded to everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender. Anything less is discrimination.

Thank you
Jason suemoto

October 17, 2013

Aloha kākou. My name is Jeremy White and I would like to share my personal story with you and explain how my life, and the lives of others like me, would be affected by the proposed Marriage Equality Bill that will be voted on in the Special Session later this month.

I was born and raised in Michigan in a very conservative, Baptist family and community. As a child, I was bright, outgoing and musically precocious. I enjoyed attending school during the week and looked forward to attending Sunday School every weekend. I had a pretty good life. However, as I grew older and began attending middle school, all of this changed.

As early as 4th grade, I realized I was attracted to other boys. When my friends were all gossiping about which girls they liked and who their "girlfriends" were, I realized I was the "odd man out" because I did not find myself attracted to girls, but instead found myself attracted to other boys my age. It was a very confusing time for me because I did not understand the concept of being "gay" until I entered junior high.

I could recall hearing, during church sermons, that "gay" people were "evil" and would "burn in hell." I was certain that I must be something other than "gay" because I knew I was a good person and knew I would go to Heaven when I died because I had accepted Christ as my personal Savior at a young age. So when some of the kids in junior high began teasing me and bullying me because I was "gay," I was very confused. I began to search for answers.

I learned to act more "straight" and to not behave or say things that would be construed as "gay." I went to school dances with girls. I tried to dress the way the other boys dressed. I made crude jokes about girls and did all the things I saw other boys doing in order to fit in and not be labeled as being "gay." I prayed every night that God would make me straight and that I could just be "normal." Eventually, I resigned myself to the fact that I was gay and that I would never be "normal."

I was extremely depressed as a teenager and grew tired of having to live "in the closet" and pretend to be someone I knew I wasn't. I attempted suicide twice and felt like even more of a failure when I wasn't able to be successful at that. Fortunately, no one ever knew about my suicide attempts and I was able to continue to disguise my depression and self-loathing and maintain my façade of being a happy, outgoing and successful young man.

As I entered college, I was determined to find others like me, where I could find the support and acceptance I so desperately desired. I found no one. I attended classes full-time and worked at a residential group home for troubled youth that was run by a Christian agency. I worked as a youth counselor in one of the group homes for boys and became like a "substitute father" to many of these boys who had never felt loved. I continued to live "in the closet" because I knew I would not be welcome to continue working at this agency if I was openly gay. I told no one. Not my family and not even my best friends. I continued to feel depressed and continued to question if life was really worthwhile.

After working for this agency for several years, I decided to become licensed as a Therapeutic Foster Parent and open my home to some of these boys who had no families to return to after completing our residential program.

I made the conscious decision to remain "in the closet" because I knew foster care agencies in my area were not willing to license gay people/couples as foster parents. In 1999, I became licensed as a therapeutic foster parent and opened my home to my first of eight foster sons. I was honored in 2002 as the Foster Parent of the Year for my work as a Therapeutic Foster Parent.

Being a single foster parent, while working full-time, was very challenging and had its share of ups and downs. However, I knew I was making a difference in the lives of these young men and that made it worth it. It also provided a strong alibi for why I didn't have time to date, when friends and family would inquire about my love life. While I felt satisfied that I was making a difference in lives of others, I continued to feel empty inside and had become exhausted from living my life "in the closet."

In late 2006, my 8th foster son moved out of my home and my family and friends encouraged me to take a vacation to relax and unwind. My mother suggested that I consider Hawaii because she had been there several times and found it to be a beautiful place to relax. I came to Hawaii in November 2006 and instantly fell in love with the people, the culture, and the Aloha spirit. Hawaii felt so welcoming and accepting of other cultures and I couldn't help but feel like I wasn't such an "odd man out" here.

During my vacation, I realized that there was a wonderful gay community in Hawaii and quickly made friends. It was a strange but wonderful feeling. The thought of being able to be 100% myself and still be accepted was a unique concept for me. Living life "outside of the closet" seemed feasible here. I returned home to Michigan and decided to take a leap of faith and move to Hawaii.

Prior to moving to Hawaii in April 2007, I decided to "come out" to my mom and my sister and to several of my closest friends, most of whom worked at the Christian agency I worked at. I was very nervous about coming out to them, but I knew it was something I needed to do. They had so many questions about why I was moving to Hawaii and it was impossible to explain to them without telling them the whole truth.

My sister and most of my friends seemed to take the news rather well. And while they were all supportive of my decision to move to Hawaii and to finally live my life "outside the closet," it was difficult for some of them to reconcile how this person who had always been such a caring and committed Christian could be gay. Most of them had never known anyone who was gay and it truly made them stop and reflect on their own beliefs about gay people.

Today, I'm glad to report, many of them have become strong allies for the gay community. Many of them have spoken to others in their church about being more accepting and welcoming of gays in their community and also about sharing Christ's love with them without condemnation or judgment. I am very proud to be able to say that my "coming out" to my friends played a key role in helping them gain more understanding about the gay community and about treating us as equals. Hopefully, this will have a positive effect on future generations of young, gay people who grow up in religious families and communities.

My mother had a much more difficult time accepting the news when I explained to her that I was gay. She had a lot of questions, shared a lot of concerns (mostly based on her strict Baptist views), and cried a lot. She was convinced that if she prayed hard enough and long enough, that God could change me. I assured her that she could not possibly pray any harder or any longer for this than I had already done as a teenager and young adult.

It has taken time, honest conversations and a willingness to be patient, but my mom has finally accepted the fact that I am gay and that there is nothing anyone can do to change that fact. She now understands that I did not choose to be gay and she has finally gotten to know me for who I am and not for who I had been pretending to be. I'm sure she still wishes things could be different, but I am content in knowing she understands and loves me for who I am.

That brings me to present day. I have now lived in Hawaii for 6 ½ years and have loved and embraced every moment. Not only have I been able to be myself and live life "outside the closet," but I have been able to advocate for other LGBT men, women and youth to have that same freedom. I have been active in several organizations such as C.R.E.A.T.E. One `Ohana, Equality Hawaii, and Life Foundation, all of whom advocate for and provide much-needed services to people in the LGBT community. My life-goal is to help create a community where LGBT youth do not have to grow up feeling like they are not "normal" and be able to live in a community where they are valued and embraced for who they are and for what they can contribute to our community. This seems like a pretty basic freedom, but I can assure you, we are not there yet.

In April 2009, I met my partner, Jason. I knew instantly that he was the man I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. He was the missing piece I had been searching for my entire life. We have lived together for the past 4 years and we purchased our first home together in 2012. We are exact opposites in many ways but we complement each other in such an amazing way. We are both contributing members of society and are active in our community. We both love Hawaii and the beautiful aloha shared by the people of these islands.

We know that we were meant to be together forever. We are also keenly aware that Hawaii does not recognize marriage between same-sex couples and in that sense, we feel like second-class citizens. While we have been afforded the opportunity to enter into a civil union, to us, it is not the same. If the tables were turned and Hawaii began telling straight couples they could no longer get married **BUT** they could enter into civil union if they wanted to, they would feel slighted, just like we do. I want the opportunity to be married to the man I love, to be able to introduce him as my husband, and to be equal in the eyes of the law. To me, anything short of that is not equality.

I sincerely urge you to consider voting **YES** on the Marriage Equality bill that is being presented in the Special Session later this month. I know many of you face opposition on this bill from some of your constituents, many of whom are from the religious community. I ask you to do what is right and to vote for marriage equality. **We are not asking for extra rights, we are simply asking for EQUAL rights.**

Mahalo Nui for your time and consideration,

Jeremy White
(808) 927-9977

From:	CURT GINTHER
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	PLEASE Recognize marriages between individuals of the same sex
Date:	Tuesday, October 22, 2013 7:53:09 PM

Some germane quotes for you to consider:

"At some point in our lifetime, gay marriage won't be an issue, and everyone who stood against this civil right will look as outdated as George Wallace standing on the school steps keeping James Hood from entering the University of Alabama because he was black."
— George Clooney

"Let's make a law that gay people can have birthdays, but straight people get more cake--you know, to send the right message to kids."
— Bill Maher, *New Rules*

"The scriptures present a God who delights in genocide, rape, slavery, and the execution of nonconformists, and for millennia those writings were used to rationalize the massacre of infidels, the ownership of women, the beating of children, dominion over animals, and the persecution of heretics and homosexuals. Humanitarian reforms such as the elimination of cruel punishment, the dissemination of empathy-inducing novels, and the abolition of slavery were met with fierce opposition in their time by ecclesiastical authorities and their apologists. The elevation of parochial values to the realm of the sacred is a license to dismiss other people's interests, and an imperative to reject the possibility of compromise."
— Steven Pinker, *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined*

"It takes no compromise to give people their rights...it takes no money to respect the individual. It takes no political deal to give people freedom. It takes no survey to remove repression."
— Harvey Milk

"I'm a supporter of gay rights. And not a closet supporter either. From the time I was a kid, I have never been able to understand attacks upon the gay community. There are so many qualities that make up a human being... by the time I get through with all the things that I really admire about people, what they do with their private parts is probably so low on the list that it is irrelevant."
— Paul Newman

"Still it is true that many same-sex couples want nothing more than to join society as fully integrated socially responsible family-centered taxpaying Little League-coaching nation-serving respectably married citizens. So why not welcome them in? Why not recruit them by the vanload to sweep in on heroic wings and save the flagging and battered old institution of matrimony from a bunch of apathetic ne'er-do-well heterosexual deadbeats like me"
— Elizabeth Gilbert, *Committed: A Skeptic Makes Peace with Marriage*

"If a couple of gay guys want to throw the gayest, most fabulous wedding of all time, the only way it should offend you is if you weren't invited."
— Orlando Winters, *Stop Being a F***ing Idiot*

"We, gays, can get married in Canada. We let heterosexuals too, but that was a huge thing, we had to have a referendum and a vote, it's crazy! But then we were like, if they want to get married.. that's cool. That's gonna destroy their relationships, but.. Heterosexuals deserve the same rights as homosexuals."

– Tegan Quin

Zach Wahls – Speaks About Family. But in my 19 years, not once have I ever been confronted by an individual who realized independently that I was raised by a gay couple. And you know why? Because the sexual orientation of my parents has had zero effect on the content of my character.

Bill Clinton said, “People who oppose equal rights for gays in the marriage sphere are basically acting out of concerns for their own identity not out of respect for anyone else."

Pope Francis warned, regarding the Religious Right:

> Francis said, "ideologies are “rigid.” When a Christian becomes a disciple of the ideology, he has lost the faith: he is no longer a disciple of Jesus, he is a disciple of this attitude of thought...The faith becomes ideology and ideology frightens, ideology chases away the people, distances, distances the people..." I hope Wayne Cordeiro is listening.

> Paul Katami contend the state is discriminating against them because of their sexuality. "This is about our freedom and our liberty," Katami said. "We are not trying to topple marriage. We are not trying to redefine marriage. What we are trying to say is that equality is the backbone of our country."

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL SO WE CAN ALL MOVE ON WITH OUR LIVES…AND HEAL THE ALOHA STATE.

Curt Ginther
Mo`ili`ili
808.344.1336

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: lrnr@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 9:41:19 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/22/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Laura Reichhardt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senator Galuteria and fellow senators, I thank you for hearing this bill and strongly encourage your full support in favor SB1 to recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex. and to extend to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive. As a health care professional, I hope that my LGBTQ patients may have the same rights to see loves ones in critical and acute care settings as my hetero patients. As a professional artist, I hope my LGBTQ colleagues may have the same rights afforded to me. And as a community member, I look forward to improved equality for my neighbors, co-workers, and peers. It will be a great honor to be in a state that recognizes marriage for same- and opposite-sex couples.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Senators,

Mahalo for this special session. It is indeed a special day. The times are a-changing, and Hawai'i has the opportunity to stand on the side of equal rights, of human rights. We have the opportunity to make our children proud of us.

There hasn't always been tolerance in our state. There hasn't always been justice. And we are not always the peaceful melting pot we claim to be. But because so many in our islands have faced injustices (from native Hawaiians to dockworkers to imprisoned Japanese Americans), we have a high tolerance for tolerance. The majority of people in Hawai'i wholeheartedly embrace this country's constitutional ideals of equality. We know in our hearts, maybe more than any other state, that we don't all have to be alike or act alike or look alike or worship alike.

It's time to do the right thing with regards to the gay and lesbian citizens of our state. Do the right thing for our gay and lesbian neighbors and friends. My eleven-year-old daughter asked me tonight, "Mommy, who do we know who's gay?" I listed men and women from their school, from our work, from the public sphere on our island. I listed couples. I listed single people. I listed parents. I listed so many that it became very clear to her that gay and lesbian people are all around her every day.

For my daughter's generation, the idea that same-sex couples can't marry is *incomprehensible*. Eleven-year-old indignation is something to see, believe me. It is thrilling

to me that she and her sister will witness Hawai'i make this transformation. To transform means to "change one's shape." Please support Senate Bill 1. Please change the shape of our islands for the better, so that we may become more open, and more strong.

Thank you,

Lurana D. O'Malley

From: Maile Boggeln
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Marriage Equality Bill
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 10:26:23 PM

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my deepest gratitude for you hearing our testimony today and taking up the issue of marriage equality.

This issue not only speaks to the core values of what we hold dear here in the islands (ALOHA) but is also of great importance because it restricts the rights of citizens of our state. As an ally to the LGBTQ community and a voting person in the state of Hawaii I urge you all to make a decision today that is not only ethically and morally correct but one that you shouldn't have the right to make in the first place.

PLEASE EXTEND EQUAL RIGHTS IF MARRIAGE TO ALL HAWAII'S CITIZENS!

Mahalo,
Maile Boggeln

October 23, 2013

Monday, October 28, 2013 –10:30 a.m.

Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor

State Capitol Auditorium

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1

Aloha Chairperson Hee and fellow committee members:

My family and I strongly support marriage equality in Hawaii. Since 1993, my same gender life partner, Louise Esselstyn, and I have been in a loving and committed relationship. We are hardworking taxpayers who contribute to our community. We are true American patriots who uphold the values of truth, respectfulness, liberty and justice for all, without exception.

Through the years, like everyone else, we've had many health challenges. Together, we have held each other's hands, prayed together, and persevered thru spine surgery (2000), cervical surgery (2005), brain surgery (2006), and the devastating diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in 2008.

Our love and commitment for each other is strong and resilient, just as it is for any other loving Ohana. However, we are both beyond the age of patience for enduring anything less than full marriage equality and legal recognition of our sacred long term relationship, as we are ages 60 and 69.

The passage of Marriage Equality in our home state of Hawaii is extremely meaningful and important to our families. It legally validates and confirms that our family is as valued as any other family in Hawaii...not better, but equal.

As Americans we value equality and civil rights and know that Marriage Equality in Hawaii is the morally and legally right decision for all of us. Civil rights can never be delegated to a popular vote of the people…our American history of oppression and discrimination proves this point. Religious freedom only exists when there is solid separation of church and state. We can look at the condition of Civil Rights in Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia, and Africa as proof of this.

The rights, responsibilities, and protections afforded us via Marriage, will infinitely improve our financial stability in Hawaii. The indignation of unfairly having to pay a "penalty tax" for the legal right to provide medical coverage for my spouse will dissolve with the passage of Marriage Equality. Our home and our future remaining years together in Hawaii will be brighter and more equitable with the legal passage of Marriage Equality.

For the past 20 years, we have worked tirelessly together … waiting for the day when we have bonafide Marriage Equality in Hawaii. Yes, the institution of marriage is a sacred one. It is a tradition we were raised in and which we value. And we want to fully and legally participate in it, without exceptions. I don't know if I agree that marriage per se is the bedrock of civilization. However, I do believe that respectfulness, integrity, honesty and equality within marriage are pillars of democracy.

We were among the first couples in the Nation to become Reciprocal Beneficiaries when that law was enacted in Hawaii in 1997. We have patiently waited and waited and waited for legal recognition of our sacred relationship. In 2012, we consciously decided to bypass the new Civil Unions law in Hawaii, because we were unwilling to give up any legal rights which the marriage laws provide to our married opposite sex family members, friends, neighbors, and colleagues. We are unwilling to endure the treatment of 2nd class citizenship.

Fortunately, we have long lives in our Ohana. Both of our Moms eagerly await our celebration of Marriage Equality in Hawaii. At ages 95 and 83, they do not have time to waste on political posturing. Our combined siblings (10) and their families similarly await our legal opportunity to celebrate our Marriage, as they have each done in the past.

Another very important point…Marriage equality promotes respectfulness and builds social justice. We have worked hard to achieve marriage equality in Hawaii…not only for ourselves but for the vulnerable LGBT youth of Hawaii. They must be reassured that they too will be able to fall in love, have marital bliss and hold their heads higher, knowing the State of Hawaii and the United States Supreme Court believe in legal equality and justice for them, too.

We are confident that this will have a positive and lasting influence on the tragic rate of bullying and the alarming and unacceptable rates of suicide in our islands among our LGBT youth. Suicide exists when people are without hope of a better future.

As elders in our community, our vision is for a brighter future for our LGBT youth…A future of respect, legal civil rights, choices, and options for full participation as an American citizen. And the legal right to enjoy a life filled with equality for every individual, regardless of social class, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Thank you for your support of Marriage Equality with the passage of SB1.

Mahalo.

Robie Lovinger &

Louise Esselstyn

92-1085 Kakoo Place, Kapolei, HI 96707

Phone: 808-722-0746

Email: rezumes@hotmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: terrilanichong@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 11:00:04 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/22/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Terrilan Chong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Love is stronger than hate. Please pass this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Sue Haglund
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB 1-Testimony in Support
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:50:08 AM

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Re: Testimony In Strong Support of Senate Bill 1 (SB 1)

I am submitting my testimony for SB 1 (Senate Bill 1) relating to equal rights. I am in STRONG SUPPORT for the passage of SB 1.

Thank you for your time.

many thanks,

Sue Haglund

From:	Kat Priem
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:02:57 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kat Priem
4700 n capital of tx hwy
Unit 1223
Austin, TX 78746

From: Gabriel Peckham
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:05:13 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gabriel Peckham
1460 C Pukele
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Samantha Smith
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:07:16 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Samantha Smith
4-1467 kuhio hwy
Kapa'a, HI 96746

From: Todd Sligar
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:08:21 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

One more thing, it is also the right thing to do.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Todd Sligar
907 gulick ave apt c
Honolulu, HI 96819

From:	Gregory Hodel
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:11:01 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gregory Hodel
76-897 Hualalai Road
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: Molly Alvarado
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:10:59 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Molly Alvarado
4-1467 Kuhio Highway
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: Nicole Schubert
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:10:36 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Nicole Schubert
2916 Date St.
Apt 24K
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Patricia Blair
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB-1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:10:31 AM

I support equality and the right to marry regardless of gender. Patricia Blair, Kailua,888-6393
Sent from my iPad

From: troy abraham
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:13:14 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

troy abraham
485 waianuenue ave apt b114
k248
hilo, HI 96720

From: John and Lucy Witeck
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:15:04 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. My brother Bob has been in a loving relationship with a great person also named Bob. The Bobs have shown my wife and me that gays can also be faithful, steadfast, loving and supportive--and so good to their siblings and the children of their siblings. It is wrong that they would be denied the right to marry in Hawaii or in their home state if they chose -- but that is the nature of the law today in too many states.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

Hawaii should be a leader in broadening civil rights--and not a reactionary holdover. No member of anyone's ohana in Hawaii or anywhere – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

John and Lucy Witeck
2252 Puna Street
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Suzette Gavin
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:15:33 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Suzette Gavin
1371 Kukana Place
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Rachel Donahue
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:16:57 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rachel Donahue
44-709 Alakai St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Carol Best
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:18:53 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Carol Best
777 Kolani Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Christopher Richardson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: I support SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:19:17 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my support for SB 1.

I am very much in favor of allowing people to marry regardless of sexual orientation.

Thank you!

Christopher Richardson
150 Hamakua Drive #408
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Kristina Shugars
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:18:52 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kristina Shugars
5110 Hana hwy
Haiku, HI 96708

From: Scott Dean
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:18:54 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My partner and I have been together almost 37 years and have experienced every imaginary discrimination possible. We live in such a wonderful place and feel strongly SB1 should pass and allow the world to see that Hawaii is an embracing place to all. The impact on allowing gay marriages to take place in Hawaii would be huge,you must agree.

We are so pleased that we can now file ONE tax form and get federal benefits because of the Supreme Courts ruling against DOMA. Let's make our state match the federal acceptance levels.

Thank you.

Scott Dean
63 Poailani Place
Wailea, HI 96753

From: Co Pegg
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:21:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Co Pegg
656 Meakanu Ln
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: james heermans
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:21:29 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

james heermans
1084 kinau st #5
honolulu, HI 96814

From: jessica palomino
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:20:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My mom met her partner, Michelle, when I was 10 years old. If Hawaii legalizes gay marriage, on my mom and Michelle's 10th anniversary, February 14, 2014, my entire family will travel to Hawaii to see them finally marry each other.

This would mean so much to our family. Not only because it symbolizes our family finally is being treated equally, but also because of all the legal rights it would guarantee my moms. It would truly prove that Hawai'i, a state I have so much love for, is making an effort to show that it loves its people too.

Not to mention all of the tourism Hawaii would receive from gay couples, like my mom and Michelle.

Please take our story and the thousands of others into consideration when you vote.

Thank you,
Jessica Palomino

jessica palomino
871 e gregson ave
salt lake city, UT 84106

From: Susan Cook
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:21:58 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for the same reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

With members of my own family being gay, it saddens me to think that they won't be able to celebrate being in love and sharing a commitment the way that I (being just married myself) can. No member of anyone's family – gay or straight – should have to face shame and prejudice because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Susan Cook
3009 ala Makahala Place
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: Paul Reeser
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:26:29 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary a
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am a Christian and gay. I know that nothing will be done by the church to give equality in this situation. Only the unbiased state can make this decision. Please give equality in marriage rights to gays as well.

I believe if blacks had waited for the church and other
religious orgaqnizations to give them equality, they would still be without vote and what measure of equality that they enjoy today. The state had to intervene.

A state wide vote does not represent the populace feeling either. In Hawaii there is a very poor voting per centage, however, the majority of the people favor equality in marriage rights.

Please stand the what is ethically just and correct. Vote
to pass equal marriage rights as issued by the state.

Paul Reeser
2085 Ala Wai Blvd. Apt. 142
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

Paul Reeser
2085 ala wai blvd Apt 14-2
Apt. 142
Honolulu,, HI 96815

From: Jane Fee
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:28:24 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. They should be given the same right to a family as everyone else. I have many gay and lesbian friends and have been honored to be invited to commitment ceremonies, and I would be delighted if they were allowed all the same benefits of marriage that I enjoy.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.
The government should be involved in the legal side of marriage and allow all loving couples to marry.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. This is only fair. As for the people that are against same sex marriage, please tell them what I tell anyone that wants to ban a victimless activity: "if you are against same sex marriage, don't marry someone of the same sex. But please, stop butting into the lives of others."

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

"What the world needs now, is love , sweet love. Its the only thing that there's JUST TOO LITTLE OF."

Jane Fee
532 Pepeekeo Place
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: "gemma Grott
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:29:05 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

'gemma Grott
Opihi
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: William Brattain
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:29:05 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

William Brattain
PO BOX 790481
Paia, HI 96779

From:	Stephen Sussman
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:29:44 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I strongly support SB 1.

This should be passed to promote equal rights for minorities in Hawaii. It does not threaten other marriages, nor does it threaten religious freedom. Every letter I read against it in the Maui News uses religious issues, yet this is not a religious marriage but a civil one. Religions are not being forced to marry those they don't want to.

I also see arguments that same sex marriage harms children. Yet the American Pediatric Association, the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychology Association, and the American Sociological Association(ASA)have all examined this issue and have all concluded children are not harmed and have all come out in favor of same sex marriage. For example, the ASA wrote: "Scholarly consensus is clear: children of same sex-parents fare just as well as children of opposite-sex parents."

Another argument against it I see is that marriage is about procreation, and same sex couples can't procreate. If that is the case, why do we let postmenopausal women marry? Why do we let someone who had a hysterectomy, tubes tied, or a vasectomy get married? Why don't we forcibly dissolve marriages that don't produce children within a certain period of time? Why doesn't someone need to pass a fertility test before marriage?

The last argument against it is that the people should vote. But putting minority rights up for popular vote is the wrong solution. If the USA did that, women likely still couldn't vote and African-Americans in the South would still have separate schools, separate water fountains, and would still sit in the back of the bus.

The bottom line is that opposition to this bill is based on either religious reasons or dislike or same sex couples (homophobia). We should not let these reasons sway us. Nobody should be forced to sit in the back of the bus.

Yours truly,

Stephen Sussman, MD
Haiku, HI.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Stephen Sussman
1500 W Kuiaha Rd
Haiku, HI 96708

From: Michael Waddell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:31:44 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

My life partner and I have been together in a committed relationship for over 39 years. We love each other just like any other committed couple, gay or straight. The primary reason we moved to Hawaii and Maui in particular was due to the accepting environment we had always experienced for 20 years when we would visit on holiday. We only want the same equal rights afforded in marriage. It is only fair.

As the General Manager of the Maui Sunseeker LGBT Resort on Maui, our guests are very excited about the pending legislation and are already making plans to be married and honeymoon in our great state. For us as a business, it will be a huge influx of tourism dollars to our state. For us an individuals in a gay owned and operated business, we are looking forward to helping couples, gay or straight, experience the joy and recognition they rightfully deserve.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael Waddell
33 Maka Hou Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Michelle Mares
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:32:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to urge you to support marriage equality in Hawaii. Marriage equality is an important human rights issue. Denying any American citizen of legal age the right to marry the person they love because of their sexual orientation is unconstitutional. The Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution states, "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." All American citizens have the same rights, and that includes those in the LGBTQIA community.

I understand and respect that you represent a community with opposing views, but our personal views cannot stand in the way of the Constitution nor of fundamental human rights. I urge you to take a stance for equality based on the Constitution and the rights of all American citizens and not merely on a set of personal values and beliefs. We have an opportunity to show the nation that Hawaiʻi respects the rights of all American citizens. I implore you to take a stand for all your constituents regardless of race, religion, gender, age, or sexual orientation.

There was a time when many states in our country upheld anti-miscegenation laws, but Hawaiʻi was not one of those states. Hawaiʻi is known for its diversity and aloha. Letʻs continue to show the world how much aloha our beautiful state has. It is time to move the United States forward once again, and we can take a monumental step towards equality here in Hawaiʻi.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michelle Mares
92-783 Paakai St
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: Angus Whyte
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:32:40 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Angus Whyte
12-86 Anuenue Wawae
RR2 Box 4853
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: Justin Hashimoto
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:33:17 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I remember the day Governor Lingle vetoed the civil unions bill. Even though a small minority celebrated that decision, it was incredibly difficult to watch. Seeing people I have gone to school with, helped through difficult times, worked with, and lived with, look me in the eye and celebrate the fact that I would be denied the same freedom offered to them...it went against everything I was taught as a boy. The true values of Aloha, of inclusion, kindness and equality for all...they were betrayed that day. Now, we have the opportunity to make it right.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Justin Hashimoto

Justin Hashimoto
96-230 Waiawa Road
#31
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: Peter Flick
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:33:02 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

May I also add that my partner and I have been together for over 13 years and we so want the same civic rights as other Residents of Hawaii, the ability to get married by a justice of the peace. I pay my taxes to the county of Hawaii, the State of Hawaii, I should be afforded the same rights and responsibilities of very other citizen of this great state.

Thank you

Peter Flick
15-2719 Popaa Street
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: Sylvia Thompson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:32:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Freedom, Liberty, Justice are only words unless applied in our daily lives. If there's freedom of religion, this should also be applied to the protected classes use by the fair housing laws, etc.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love,commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sylvia Thompson
1015 Wilder Avenued
#702
Honolulu, HI 96822

From:	Allen Hanaike
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Support for SB1
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:34:27 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I'm writing in support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry should not be denied to anyone; regardless of whether someone is straight, gay, bisexual, or uncertain of his or her sexual identity.

Marriage, and the government related privileges, services and benefits should be available to any committed couple of any gender who choose to enter into that arrangement.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Allen Hanaike
1505 Kealia Dr
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Rocio Escobar
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:34:24 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rocio Escobar
3702 L Honoapiilani Rd #23
Lahaina, HI 96761

From:	Martin Diamond
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:36:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Martin Diamond
13160 Kula Hwy.
Kula, HI 96790

From: Anne Lorenzo
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:39:11 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anne Lorenzo
91-1201 Keone'ula Blvd.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: Laura Manis
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:40:23 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laura Manis
1350 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: Brian Lesh
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:40:36 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Brian Lesh
2178 wilson st
honolulu, HI 96819

From: Hylie Santos
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:41:11 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

IT IS TIME!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

MAHALO!

Hylie Santos
PO Box 226
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: kalea oleson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:41:27 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.
I support love and equality and thats all this has ever been about!, even if you dont like gays wouldn't it be better if they are going to be living together then they should be married! Gays adopt children, so why not have a proper union with documentation, if they build a house together its only right that the partner doesnt get tossed out on their butt if one dies they have no legal rights to their own property? Its only fair.. not to mention all the extra tourism it will boost for hawaii !! Hello gays want a hawaiian wedding just as much as a female and male couple!! Its a win win.. plus population control, and maybe monsonto wont be so hell bent on killing off all us poor people??
The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

kalea oleson
64-444 leleaka lp
kamuela, HI 96743

From: Scott Sutherland
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:45:18 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Scott Sutherland
2047 Nuuanu Ave. Apt. 1402
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Tondalaya Gillespie
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:45:13 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tondalaya Gillespie
73-4398B Hawaii Belt Road
Kailua-Kon, HI 96740

From: Annie Hollis
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:45:43 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Annie Hollis
1610 Liholiho
#305
Honolulu, HI 96822

Aloha and thank you for your time! I am writing to testify on behalf of gay marriage rights. I am a heterosexual female and have been married to the same man for 17 years. We have 3 wonderful children together. I am also a wedding coordinator and planner.

I have seen many heterosexual couples get married over the last few years and it is not always a joyous occasion for everyone. There is always someone on the sidelines not happy about the union for their own personal reasons: too young, too quick, not enough money, etc.

I support gay marriage for many reasons but most importantly, because it is the right thing to do. If consenting adults choose to begin their lives together as a married couple, we are doing something right as a society. They are making a conscious decision to share their lives together and all that entails. It is not an easy thing to do and it takes time, commitment, patience and love. If we allow 18 year olds who may not even have graduated from high school to marry, why can't people who happen to be the same se marry?

For those naysayers who speak of moral degradation I say that there are worse things that your children are already exposed to. As a mother, I am responsible for my children's morality and decisions. The kind of person they are and will be has to do with what I teach them with my actions and my words and not what others are doing. It is time we take responsibility for our children and teach them to do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. If you don't agree with a gay couple getting married, don't come to the wedding.

Financially, approving gay marriage would be a boost to our local economy. With so many couples choosing Hawaii to have their "Dream Weddings" or vow renewals, imagine the amount of people we would have coming here eating in our restaurants, sleeping in our hotels, shopping in our stores. The potential is staggering for us. Not only for the couples, but the friends and families who would also be coming to celebrate with them.

Married couples have an easier time adopting and/or qualifying to be foster parents. Children who need the love, time and attention will benefit from having an abundance of homes where they can be treated well and brought up in a stable family environment. This is the 21st century and as our world evolves, so must our thinking.

We have only so much time on this earth and it is not common for people to find someone they want to commit to, so we should allow happiness in any form. I have always felt that we as a society need to promote happiness and positivity.

Please vote for our gay couples to have the right to be married in Hawaii. There is so much good that can come from it.

Mahalo,

Adina Comilla

From: Gil Mendez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:46:47 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gil Mendez
15-2719 Popaa Street
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: Teri Skillman
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:47:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

As a divorced, single mother, I have friends who are gay with children. Their marriage outlasted mine and they have children that they have raised. The are loving, caring, productive members of our community. I strongly feel that their children deserve the same benefits as my daughter and as a spouse, they deserve the same rights that I have had.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Teri Skillman
2833 Nihi St
Honolulu, HI 96813

SENATOR CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR
SENATOR MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, VICE-CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TESTIMONY RE: SENATE BILL NO. 1
RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Auditorium

Good morning Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the committee:

My name is David Lane Henkin, and I am testifying as a father of two wonderful children. I strongly support Senate Bill No. 1. If the State is to confer rights and impose obligations on its citizens based on their participation in a committed relationship, it should not discriminate based on whether the individuals forming that couple are of opposite sex or the same sex. Senate Bill 1, which removes the discriminatory ban on same-sex marriage, is vital to confer on all the people of Hawai‘i equal protection under the law, regardless of sexual orientation.

My daughter is thirteen years old, and my son is ten. As a parent, my hope is that, some day, they will find happiness in a committed relationship with someone they love. When they do, I want to ensure that they will enjoy the same legal rights – both state and federal – as any other citizen of Hawai‘i, regardless of the sex of their partner. Please pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

From: Whitney Bacon
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:50:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

I studied at University of Hawaii at Manoa. I lived on Oahu for 6 years and it become my home. Whilst at university I met my partner Megan when I studied abroad for a semester in London in 2008. We went on to do long distance for 4 years and my partner visited Hawaii 5 times, she even joined me out here for 3 months (length of visitor visa) & we have so many special and fond memories of Hawaii. In fact, we even got engaged in Hawaii as Megan proposed to me at Waimanola beach. In order for us to live a life finally together I sadly had to leave Hawaii and join Megan in the UK. We had a small Civil Partnership in 2012 & it would the world to us if we could get married in Hawaii, the place I call home and means so much to us but where we could no longer belong due to immigration & the lack of gay rights & marriage.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

We want to come home.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Whitney Bacon
520 lunalilo home road
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Rich Roberts
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:51:28 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rich Roberts
640 Iliaina St.
Kailua, HI 96734

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	gary@islandindoor.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:51:57 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Gary Bradley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Please support Marriage Equality for all and not just some. It's important to me and my husband. We want to be married in our HOME state and not have to fly to the West Coast to get this recognition. We also don't want to proceed with the Lawsuit (IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII NATASHA N. JACKSON, JANIN KLEID, and GARY BRADLEY, Plaintiffs,) that I'm in with the State over this issue, but we will if needed. It is our rights that are at stake. We own property here and we're proud to be voting residents. Thank you for your support of not must my rights, but for every ones rights to be treated equally. Respectfully submitted, Gary Bradley-Honolulu

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Amy Cook
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:56:51 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

Recently, I have seen people advocating that this issue should be resolved by a statewide ballot. All of these people are opposed to marriage equality and they may even be the majority of people at the polls should the legislature pass the decision to voters. This would be a tragedy.

In a democracy one of the duties of elected representatives is to defend the rights of minorities. Every adult has the right to choose a life partner and have that decision's responsibilities and benefits honored by the society they live in. I find the idea of limiting a person's civil and human rights with a popular vote to be morally reprehensible and I hope you do as well.

My husband and I were married in a courtroom in Wailuku in 2011, it was a very simple ceremony but it was our right. No one would have thought to stop us from paying for and signing a marriage license. But that's not true for many of your constituents. It saddens me that so many of my friends and colleagues are still denied the right to walk into a courthouse, speak with a judge, and walk out married. They all deserve the rights and protections provided by Hawaii and the United States governments as much as I and my husband do.

In Hawaii, we don’t turn our backs on family. No member of anyone’s ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Amy Cook
PO Box 10889
Hilo, HI 96721

From: Cortney Silva
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:56:49 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cortney Silva
Hio Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Judith Cremarosa
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:57:00 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Judith Cremarosa
POB 61933
Honolulu, HI 96839

From: Marsha Cavin
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:56:31 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I firmly believe that we are all human beings first -- everything else is incidental. That includes what sex we are, what color we are, who we love. And as human beings, we should all have the same rights. Please do the right thing -- the pono thing -- and grant equal rights to all of us. I have gay friends who have raised children, and are now grandparents -- some have spent over 40 years together in committed, strong relationships. Please recognize them -- and all of us -- as equal human beings under the law.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marsha Cavin
620 Laie Drive
A
Makawao, HI 96768

From: Mike Hough
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:00:18 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Although I agree with everything in the text below I also want to make a personal statement in my own words.

There are always times in history where we look at an issue and make a judgement based upon facts and feelings rather than dogma, I believe on this occasion it's time we make the right decision and make all people equal irrespective of race, sex or ethnicity.

Future citizens of Hawaii and the US as awhile will look back on this day with pride or with shame, let's make sure they see the true values we aspire to in Hawaii.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mike Hough
6440 Olohena Road
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: Dwayne Wood
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:01:23 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support for SB 1.

My personal story is a prime example of our attempts at equity in our state showing inequity in Reciprocal Beneficiary Partnerships, and then Civil Unions. While these amendments to our laws did much to recognize all citizens and their relationships, it also left a glaring distinction that as a society, we are unwilling to treat each other as equals.

While Hawaii was at the forefront of the equality movement, we took baby steps towards equality.

My partner of 25 years died nine years ago, we had become the first couple in Hawaii under the Reciprocal Beneficiary Partnership to use the law in legal proceedings after his death. While the State of Hawaii recognized my relationship, which was helpful, I was painfully aware of all Federal rights and benefits that a surviving spouse would have had automatically. This was nine years before the landmark rulings of the United States Supreme Court.

Yet now, as far as we have come, If I were in a loving and committed relationship, Federal recognition would still be denied and will continue to be until my own State of Hawaii allows for a marriage that the Federal government would recognize.

As of this year, the only way to treat all citizens fairly is allow marriage for all. To deny it is not only inequitable, but it will then have been Hawaii's choice to deny Federal benefits to Hawaii's same sex couples. There can no longer be any reasonable justification for that.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Dwayne Wood

Dwayne Wood
7199 Hawaii Kai Drive
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: David Findley
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:01:34 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in STRONG support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Findley
13-6510 Kalapana Kapoho Road
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: Dane Findley
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:03:05 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dane Findley
13-6510 Kalapana Kapoho Road
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: Soul Dancer
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:03:59 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As an out, gay social worker (masters level), I write to you in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Soul Dancer
General Delivery
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: Westley Smith
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:03:52 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Westley Smith
140 Uwapo Road
#31-103
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Dan Lindsay
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:14:19 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

The arguments against marriage equality are specious. Some assert that somehow, gay marriage will harm heterosexual marriage. But every marriage is individual; no marriage affects the nature of any other. Marriage between people of different races was once said to harm the institution; that was false. Some assert marriage is for procreation only; that too is false, as there are very successful marriages between people without children.

Some cite the Christian Bible in their claim that marriage should be limited to heterosexuals, but religion-based arguments have basis in a multi-cultural society. Christians are perfectly free to themselves marry only heterosexuals; they have no right to impose their religious preference on the rest of us.

I am straight, but I'm not narrow! I want my gay and lesbian friends to have the same rights I do.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Dan Lindsay
2390 Kaiwiki Rd.
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Amanda Paterson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:18:33 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am a lesbian who is in a committed civil union partnership with my wife; we had our ceremony on January 7 last year. I am also not a US citizen but have been studying and now working in the state of Hawaii since I arrived in 1996. I call Hawaii home even though I am an Australian citizen. I have never been in the US illegally, I have always had a student or work visa. This Christmas I will be taking my wife and our 8 year old son to Australia to visit my family, although DOMA has been struck down as unconstitutional, I still need to visit the US Embassy in Sydney to renew my visa so that I can come back to Hawaii with my family. By passing SB 1 I could obtain my greencard, I could change my job if I really wanted to, our family could live with the benefits that heterosexual couples enjoy.

My relationship is not second rate, it's not below the relationship of a heterosexual couple nor should it be counted as one. My wife and I are loving parents to our son, who is proud of his two mamas and isn't afraid to say so at school. Please validate our relationship as it deserves to be validated.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don’t turn our backs on family. No member of anyone’s ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Amanda Paterson
3517 Kilauea Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Laura Grote
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:19:50 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Aside from all that, I just don't understand how someone else's marriage effects anyone - at all!! It is no one's business.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laura Grote
68-3831 Lua Kula Street
Waikoloa, HI 96738

From: Justin Southern
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:21:30 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Justin Southern
3065 Mapu Place
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Tristan Naranjo
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:21:10 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Myself and my partner Joseph met 16 years ago and have been together since. We got our civil union license 2 years ago but that is not enough. Why do him and I, who have loved each other for 16 years not have the right to marry? We are tax-paying law abiding citizens of society and should be treated with the equality and fairness as any other citizen, not based on who we love.
Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tristan Naranjo
91-1017 Kanela Street
Ewa beach, HI 96706

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: moorjon@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:21:30 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jonathan Moore	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I urge all in our State Legislature to stand on the right side of history, and vote to pass this measure. This will ensure all in Hawaii are treated equal under the law. Please stand on the right side of history!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Bradford Lum
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:23:28 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bradford Lum
1611 Keeaumoku #202
1611 Keaaumoku Street #202
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Jonathan Moore
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:24:45 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jonathan Moore
140 Uwapo Rd 7-103
Kihei, HI 96753

On October 19, 2013, I had the privilege of legally marrying the couple below in the state of Minnesota. As a resident of the state of Hawai'i, I urge you to vote "yes" for marriage equality. The love of this couple began 11 years ago, with an engagement of 10 years while the patiently waited and found for their right to marry. When Minnesota welcomed equality in May, my friend and her partner began planning their wedding. Finally. This couple epitomizes love and values. They are deeply committed to building their lives together and living with a sense of purpose, love, and compassion. They exemplify communication, respect, and happiness- all characteristics that should exist in a marriage. After bearing witness to this love and legally joining this couple, it is without question and with deepest conviction that I affirm my belief that all committed couples should be given the right to marry. We live in a country that proudly shouts "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." For this to truly occur, all people must have the same rights, just as my friend and her partner now enjoy in the state of Minnesota. Please, vote "yes."

From: Heather Metzler
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:27:32 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Heather Metzler
91-1186 Kuano'o Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: Caryl Burns
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:31:03 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Caryl Burns
73-1014 Ahulani St.
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From: Brian Asbjornson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: I support SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:32:03 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I support marriage equality as a father and a business owner in Hawaii.

I often ask myself what kind of world I want my daughter to live in. As a human, I want respect, dignity and fairness. These values are elemental to my being. They are also the values I want my young daughter to experience and develop. It seems quite self-evident that to live these values, we must live in a society where we afford respect, dignity and fairness to all. This includes everyone, from those who share my lifestyle, faith and sexual preference and those who do not. We cannot apply these values selectively.

Marriage equality--the ability to commit to love and be with something and be legally and socially recognized--must be a core tenet of a fair and just society.

As an owner of a marketing business in Hawaii who has numerous clients in the tourism and hospitality sectors, supporting marriage equality is a wise business decision. More tourism and weddings create more commerce. I have spoken with many of my clients about the new opportunities marriage equality will bring to Hawaii. The Hawaii business community overwhelmingly looks forward to the new opportunities.

Brian Asbjornson
74-4325 Pia Place
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: Michele Nagamine
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:32:55 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

This is about equality. It is simply not fair to discriminate against nor single out any person for who they love. Take all the religious banter and moral pleas out of this equation and ask yourself "What is fair?". It doesn't matter if you approve of a homosexual lifestyle or not. No one is asking you to LIVE a lifestyle that you don't approve of; we are asking you to treat everyone EQUALLY, regardless of who they love. There is a big difference there!

Fair is being able to love whoever you choose to love. Fair is being able to share this love with your partner in a committed and caring manner. Fair is being able to share your life with your partner and to be able to have your family unit reap the medical and financial benefits that all other married couples are afforded.

In Hawaii, we take great pride in our Aloha Spirit. It's something we have that no other place has. It's ours and our alone. We need to live with Aloha now. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. It's the right thing to do!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michele Nagamine
7012 Hawaii Kai Drive
Unit #101
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Kelly Kim
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:40:22 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I feel that we will look back on these times and shake our heads over the absurdity of the fact that we even hesitated to deprive two consenting adults in love the right to all of the security and benefits that legal marriage provides. It wasn't that long ago that mixed-race marriages weren't allowed in some places and now it seems unconscionable that there were laws against it.

On a practical note, the State of Hawaii coffers and Hawaii's citizens could also benefit financially from the revenue generated by the passing of SB 1.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kelly Kim
1411 Hoolako Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Libby Kelson-Fulcher
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:41:49 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. In this day and age, more enlightened than any other time in our history, laws are becoming more and more humane and attuned to and supportive of the State's constituents.

The freedom to marry whom you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied anyone let alone by government. Gay and lesbian couples get married for the same reason as all other human beings. No member of anyone's family irrespective of sexual orientation should have to face shame because of who they are and whom they love. And especially in
Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on our ohana.

The government should not be in the business of dictating whom people can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass SB 1to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's people.

Mahalo.

Libby Kelson-Fulcher
P.O. Box 4965
75 -5770 Makelina Pl
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

From: Raul Sanchez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:46:35 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone.

It's simply the right thing to do.

You will hear from religious and non-religious groups telling you why this bill should not pass. But the truth of the matter is that they're arguments are based on lies.

I've seen a commercial aired these last couple of days testifying that same-sex marriage will destroy the sanctity of marriage in our state. That is a lie.

The sanctity of marriage has been systematically broken for as along as marriage has existed. If it isn't through infidelity, it's through divorce.

I supervise a program for our great state where I we deal with parents and their children. I guesstimate that at the minimum, 95% of our participants are single parent households. What does that say for the sanctity of FAMILY, much less marriage.

Some if these participants have several children from several fathers. That's what's destroying any and all sanctities.

But I'd would be illegal to tell someone that they are no longer allowed to have children out of wedlock, so why deny a loving couple the right to legalization?

Others will state that marriage for the purpose of procreation. Another false statement. How do you answer to married couples who can't have children? Will ask them get a divorce because they can't procreate? No. What about couples that are married and have chosen not to have children? Would you annul their marriage? No, you wouldn't.

I have been with my partner for 10 years. We live here alone without family. Should I end up in a hospital bed not being able to make decisions for myself, my partner would be denied. And if my family can't come here to make decisions for me, and worse case scenario, I die. I died because my person of choose wasn't allowed to make medical decisions for me.
What then? Who will take responsibility for my passing? You? I doubt that. The groups of people begging you not to allow me the basic right to live my life as I please? Absolutely not.

How will the state the respond to lawsuits for situations like this?

In conclusion Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor, I sit here asking you, not just as a tax paying citizen, or a homosexual man, but as a human being, to the simple thing, the right thing and pass the SB1 bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Raul Sanchez
1426 Keeaumoku St
C23
Honolulu, HI 96822

From:	Dr. Robert A. Baysa
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Cc:	rlzbaysa@gmail.com
Subject:	Testimony
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:52:21 AM
Attachments:	image001.png

Please count my testimony in favor for MARRIAGE: Man & Woman … Please be reminded what the initial ballot vote was for the legislature to ensure in regards to marriage …

Aloha,

Robert A. Baysa, DDS

Dental Arts, LLC

95-1099 Ainamakua Drive, Suite 1

Mililani, Hawaii 96789

O 808.625.6300

C 808.389.2416

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From: Joleen Nactor
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Vote in favor of Marriage Equality
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:52:54 AM

This is addressed to those who would oppose marriage equality for same-sex couples. Whatever your beliefs may be, the right to marry some one, regardless of gender, is a civil matter, not a religious one. Do you remember why our ancestors came to America in the first place? It was to escape religious persecution. No one wanted their lives ruled by religion. That is why when our founding fathers first began to assemble our government we know today, the decided to separate church and state, so that later generations would not have to face such persecution again. And look where we are now. People are using religious beliefs to deny certain people the same right that others have. Same sex couples do not ask for special rights, we ask for the same rights. It is time that Christian people in this country actually follow what Jesus said to do and that's to love one another as you would him. Everyone deserves to be happy in this world.

Sent from my iPad

From: Cathy Levinson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:53:41 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Thank you very much for your continuing work on behalf of marriage equality.

It is time to stop the discrimination against a segment of our community and the resulting pain and inequality it causes.

Hawaii is the land of aloha where people's differences are embraced and honored by the whole community.

Please pass marriage equality so couples and families can receive federal benefits as soon as possible.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cathy Levinson
3430-F Keahi Place
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Traci Yoshiyama
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:54:08 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Traci Yoshiyama
1711 East West Road
#559
Honolulu, HI 96848

From: Jeff Demma
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:55:07 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I have been with my partner for 15+ years and we work, volunteer, pay taxes, purchased property, own a small business, have built a life on Kauai, and do all of the other things our straight friends do except we currently are not recognized the same for State and Federal tax and legal purposes as we are not able to marry. We are simply living our lives and expressing our love for each other in a long-term, committed relationship just like our straight counterparts. We know this is the right thing for Hawaii and the right thing for us a human beings.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jeff Demma
1742 Ahina Road
PO Box 662024
Lihue, HI 96766

From: Rocio Escobar
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:34:33 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I would like you to know how critically important the passing of SB 1. is to me. My partner and I met in Greeley Colorado, at the University of Northern Colorado in the fall of 1999.
My partner was a Spanish and Education major from the beautiful island of Hawaii. I knew instantly that she was the one for me.
I was just 23 when I met her, I was a first generation Mexican American girl with big dreams, teaming with idealisms about what it meant to be a good citizen, giving back to my community and doing my part to make the world better.

I joined the Weld County Youth Conservation Corps/ Americorps. I completed 2 years of national service to my country and my community. I was proud to have been a part of a program that helped in neighborhood beautification, conflict resolution training and tutoring in the public schools, tree planting, trail construction at Rocky Mountain National Park.

That was almost 13 years ago, since 07 we have called Maui our home. My partner is now an outstanding teacher here in Lahaina. I was working for Head Start in Lahaina also, unfortunately I injured my back on September 19, 2011, and I have been out of work since then.
I've had a lot of medical issues since and it was my experience with the healthcare system that has pushed me and motivated me since. Upon one visit to the ER, my partner was not allowed in to see me. This frightened me to the core.
The legal rights of married couples is so important to me. I will be having a major surgery to fuse my spine in the following months, and it scares me that my partner will have no say in such matters.

Our 14 year anniversary lands on October 28th, and it would mean the world to me to be able to marry my partner of 14 years.
As we navigate forward we want to have a family, and do so with the certainty that our rights as Americans and as citizens of Hawaii are protected. That our children can grow up in a place where equality and freedom is protected.

I think it's time to head our amazing Constitution that guarantees equal rights under the law.
Nothing would make me more proud.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don’t turn our backs on family. No member of anyone’s ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rocio Escobar
3702 L Honoapiilani Rd #23
Lahaina, HI 96761

From: Lana Kisner
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:59:27 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Also, by denying marriage between gay and lesbian couples, it is denying the legal rights and benefits which come with a legal marriage, and it is discriminatory to deny certain citizens these legal rights because they happen to be homosexual. As citizens of this country, we should all be equal, in our legal rights as well as our right to achieve happiness.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lana Kisner
916 Queen St.
#12
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: Jonathan Rehm
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:03:41 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I have been together with my partner for 11 years. I love him and will until we are no longer. I am just wanting the equal civil rights as an adult to marry and have all the benefits awarded to a married same sex couple. Not long ago interracial marriages were illegal. Since overturned there has only been enrichment to the world for it. I believe in Love and Acceptance. This is a new Era and that should be reflected in Hawaiian Culture. Gay People are a part of Hawaiian Past and Culture since the beginning of time. Act with fairness to all people.

Thank You
Jonathan Rehm~

Jonathan Rehm
250 Haouli St #419
wailuku, HI 96793

From: Tracy Mullen
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:04:49 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

There is no good reason why couples, gay or straight, should have any restriction. The biggest reason to hold back is fear of those who are so closed minded. Look at the other states that have passed this law. They are going on the same, even better, now that everyone can happily be joined in marriage and equally love one another as they should.

The greatest gift in life is to find love, to share love, and to value that love forever. So why not let everyone share that level of happiness?

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tracy Mullen
2012 pacific heights RD
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Phillip Arnold
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:09:35 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The precious freedom to be treated equal under the U.S. Constitution includes the right to marry the person you love. It is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. After being in a committed relationship for the past 35 years,extending equality to us is way over due. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii or any other place in the United States of America, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to be relegated to the status of a second class citizen. It is now time to redress this inequality issue by passing SB1.

The government's role is here to guarantee that there is equality for all citizens. Citizens' rights should never be put to a public vote. I urge you to do what is "pono"!!!

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Phillip Arnold
2825 South King Street
Honoluolu, HI 96826

From: Lisa Hamilton
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:10:41 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Love is the human condition. Adults love one another every day and it is no one's business but their own... how could it be anyone else's? It is private, intimate, wonderful. Absurdly beautiful.

Marriage not only tells the world that this beautiful love is here, it also seals in legal rights that all couples are entitled to; rights that are inherent simply because the two are citizens. The government no longer has the power to withhold other than the legal one... and we are all aware that sometimes legality is not morality.

Please vote yes on this bill. Vote for love, marriage and stability for all Hawaiians who desire them.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lisa Hamilton
146 Ehilani
Makawao, HI 96768

From: Anna Meyer
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:11:35 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

The fact that this issue even needs to be voted on is ridiculous to me. Every person, no matter their race, gender, religion, background or sexual orientation deserves the same love as anyone else and the right to commit their lives to their one special person. There is no freedom until we are all equal.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anna Meyer
1249 W. Kawailani St
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Jim Cooper
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:15:06 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Love between two individuals should not be classified as "correct" or "wrong" based on gender.

Marriage creates legal benefits. Those benefits should not be denied anyone because of gender.

Gender discrimination is just wrong. Laws already exist that make this point. It is time to add Marriage to the list where gender discrimination is not allowed.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jim Cooper
1435 9th ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Deborah Hillman
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:17:22 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Deborah Hillman
PO Box 4484
Hilo, HI 96720

From: David Paulson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:22:10 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Paulson
3254 Hoolulu Street
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Fred Wells
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:22:20 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Fred Wells
6163 Waipouli Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: Todd Simmons
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:21:45 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I'm pleased today to join hundreds of thousands of other Hawai'i residents in supporting SB 1. The promise of this legislation was a great draw for my husband, our sons and me as we considered a move to Hawai'i early in 2012. As a family very personally affected by this issue, we are grateful that the Legislature and Gov. Abercrombie stand ready to make good on that promise.

My husband and I have been married now for 16 years, having wed in a Florida ceremony that wasn't recognized by law, but continues to be one of the most precious experiences in our lives. When we adopted our sons 5 1/2 years ago, it was with the hope that as their parents, we might one day hold equal status with all of those other married couples that benefit from the protections, rights and responsibilities of legal marriage. Our sons are excited that this major point of progress is very nearly here, as they've never been able to understand why the relationship between the parents who love, care and provide for them isn't recognized by law.

It's been painful these past few weeks to drive by individuals clamoring on street corners for the right to decide whether my relationship is recognized. This is not an easy thing to explain to our kids. Change is easier for some than others, but I believe our opponents will fade away on this issue as they have in the 14 other states that recognize marriage equality -- quietly, and with none of the dire consequences they predicted of marriage equality coming to pass.

I encourage you and your colleagues to act with all due haste to pass this bill and open the door to equal and fair treatment for my marriage, my family and for all of Hawai'i's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Todd Simmons
520 Lunalilo Home Road 209
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: David Deges
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:28:53 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Deges
15-1616 21st Ave.
Keaau, HI 96749

From: charisse Estrera
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:33:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

charisse Estrera
86370 kuwale rd
waianae, HI 96792

From: Kanuji Parmar
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:34:06 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kanuji Parmar
1650 Ala Moana Blvd.
#2001
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Mari Vermeer
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:35:49 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mari Vermeer
1185 Akipola Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Aaron Gorospe
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:39:35 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

October 23rd, 2013

Dear Comittee,

My name is Aaron. I was born and raised here in Hawai‘i, and I happen to be one of the ‘opihi – a local boy who loves and does not want to leave the islands. I was a Catholic school student from K-8, and then attended and graduated from a local private school. I recently attained my Master’s degree, and I am currently working with Student Services at the University of Hawai‘i, providing valuable social and academic support to the students. I enjoy contributing to the community by helping others learn, a drive that has brought me grow in the field of education. Overall, I’m just an average local boy who loves his community and wants to do his best in life.

I am also gay. And apparently, parts of society feel that trait overshadows all my positive qualities.

Growing up as a gay teen was quite difficult. I was given all kinds of negative messages that damaged my self-perceptions – that homosexuals were “dirty,” “hedonistic,” and “unChristian,” which volunteered them for and made them deserving of prejudice and discrimination. As an adult now, I am more socially aware, and I now understand that the problem is with society as a whole, not myself and those like me.

The issue at hand is that of rights to marriage. For some reason, many people do not seem to realize that gays and lesbians are normal people – normal people who want and deserve to experience the same happiness as others. Refusing to provide these kinds of rights sends the message that homosexuals are “less” than heterosexuals – that they are less deserving of access to certain institutions because of their sexual orientation. This kind of social and legal subjugation has very real effects on the lives of many homosexual Americans, from the gay teenager who is struggling with his sexual identity and the teasing of classmates to the unwed lesbian who cannot see her partner in the hospital because she does not have the right.

In the coming month, I will be making 8 happy years with my boyfriend, and I would love to be able to express our commitment and love for each other through marriage, should we decide to do so. I do not feel that he and I should be told by anyone that we are not able to celebrate our commitment in the same way as my heterosexual family and friends.

I am asking you to please vote to allow people like me to marry here in our state. Our request to be allowed to marry carries no malice, no ill intent. We simply want to be able to exist as good people, and to share in the same joys and responsibilities of marriage as our heterosexual counterparts.

As an everyday local boy who contributes to this community just as much as anyone else, I feel that I and those like me deserve to have this bill passed.

Aaron Gorospe
95-1062 Puulu Street
Mililani, HI 96789

From: georgepbarbour@gmail.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Cc: George Barbour; Rep. Mele Carroll; Senator English
Subject: Fwd: Testimony in Strong Support of Marriage Equality
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:40:37 AM

Here is my testimony in favor of marriage equality. Mahalo for the opportunity to make my views known.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** georgepbarbour@gmail.com
> **Date:** October 14, 2013 at 7:40:38 AM HST
> **To:** Mele Carrol <repcarrol@hawaii.gov>, Senator English <kalani@kalanienglish.com>
> **Cc:** George Barbour <georgepbarbour@gmail.com>
> **Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of Marriage Equality**
>
> Dear Representative Carrol and Senator English,
> I have attached a copy of my testimony to the relevant committees. I once again urge you both to support marriage equality. Mahalo for your support.
> Testimony for the House Committee on Judiciary
> Testimony for the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
> Aloha Committee Members,
> My husband and I were married last year in New York City after 34 years together as a committed gay couple. It was a wonderful occasion, but sadly our own state did not offer us the opportunity to marry in our own community. We have lived and owned our home on Molokai for over 10 years. We have always been accepted by our neighbors and co-workers as a committed couple. My husband teaches in the community and I'm involved in volunteer work and I am a member of the Molokai veterans center.
> While we have taken the legal steps to protect our interests we still continue to be discriminated against by insurance companies who refuse to allow us the benefits of family/couple insurance rates. While we can file joint tax returns at the federal level we can't at the state. That is why marriage equality at the state level is important now.
> What is even sadder is that the members of the US armed forces stationed and living here in our state must go elsewhere to marry. Otherwise they can not receive full marriage rights at the federal level. These men and women protect us, live in our neighborhoods, shop in our stores And are our friends and yet our state denies them this basic right. That is not the Hawaiian way.
> Finally I want you to know that I have reviewed the draft legislation and believe that the provisions protect members of the clergy from coercion in the performance of marriages between same sex couples.
> Thank you for supporting marriage equality in Hawaii.
> Mahalo Nui Loa
> George P Barbour, Jr.

100 Lio Place A3
PO Box 319
Maunaloa, HI 96770
808-552-2429
Sent from my iPad

From: Cynthia Fritts
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:44:13 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cynthia Fritts
626 West Hind Dr
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: Catherine Ulep
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:45:40 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Catherine Ulep
P.O. BOX 6369
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Valery Atkinson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1!!!!
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:46:17 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I feel truly blessed to live in this amazing state, but it won't truly be home until I have the freedom to marry the person I love. This is the aloha state. We should have been the first to pass this law and we should definitely not be the last!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Valery Atkinson
Leihua
Waianae, HI 96792

From: Kristina Basso
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:47:31 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kristina Basso
45609 Apapane St
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Eleanor Kleiber
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:50:25 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Eleanor Kleiber
738 Palani Ave. 302
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Ross Martineau
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:51:43 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I have been in a committed same-sex relationship for over 15 years. We eat, sleep, go to work, bicker, worry about bills and pay taxes like every other citizen of the US. To deny us basic rights that are allowed to other citizens is unconstitutional. Period.

I wish the ghost of George Wallis could whisper in the ears of the few who wish to deny all citizens equal rights. It was not that long ago that minorities were also denied basic rights.

Many of the naysayers are people want to deny us rights based on moral and/or religious beliefs. However, MUST separate church and state.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ross Martineau
PO Box 662021
Lihue, HI 96766

From: Robert Fox
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:57:39 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robert Fox
2022 University Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Daniel Pacheco
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:00:22 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Daniel Pacheco
47-392 Ahuimanu Pl.
Suite A-1
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Malin Klawonn
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:03:20 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Malin Klawonn
1040 Kinau St #707
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: ljarlington@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:03:38 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Linda Arlington	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have no objections to same sex marriage. I believe that persons who wish to marry should be able to do so regardless of their race, religion and or sexual preference with another human. I would hope that in Hawaii, as in other states that are creating laws which will enable same sex couples to marry, Hawaii will bravely follow their lead. Thank you, Linda Arlington

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: lynne matusow
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:05:17 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Unfortunately, I will not be present to testify.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. This is a civil rights issue, not a religious issue.

The government should not let the people take a popular vote on this issue. If that were the case miscegenation would still be outlawed in many states. Times change. Society evolves. This is one of the changes that are occurring nationally and internationally. Even anti same sex marriage Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey has dropped his opposition since the N.J. Supreme Court said it was likely his arguments would not prevail. New Jersey is the 14th State where same sex marriage is legal. Hawaii should be number 15.

More important, those in same sex marriages are eligible for the 1,138 federal benefits, including social security survivor benefits, filing joint federal returns, transferring an unlimited amount to a spouse upon death without federal estate tax.

It is estimated that more than $200 million will be received by the state by allowing same sex marriage.

Please pass this bill now to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

lynne matusow
60 n.beretania, #1804
honolulu, hi 96817
531-4260

lynne matusow
60 N. Beretania, #1804
honolulu, HI 96817

From: Paul Spear
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1and my story from last year
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:05:35 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Last year as I was in the midst of my move to Hawaii I encountered one of the many reasons that the right to marriage is so important to me. My partner of 19 years became ill and died in Hawaii in the midst of our move. We did not have the protection of marriage in our previous state so we had done our due diligence and had health care directives and wills under the laws of our previous state of residence. We were in the midst of our move so we had not established residency in Hawaii yet and had not revised our documents for Hawaii or had time to establish a civil union here. Fortunately the hospital accepted the health care directive because Cory was still awake to acknowledge that he wanted me to make the health decisions for him if he could not make them and I was forced to make decisions ten days later.

However, after he died the funeral home refused to accept Oregon documents giving me the power to authorize the disposition of his remains and instead they involved my partners estranged mother to make all decisions regarding his body after his death. A widower would not have been forced to the sidelines with the protection of marriage and my partner would not have had to have his remains become a matter of dispute and had his wishes ignored.

This is a small example of the many fundamental rights that come with true marriage and Hawaii's civil unions law couldn't have helped me or other's from out of state while traveling here.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don’t turn our backs on family. No member of anyone’s ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Paul Spear
PO BOX 30902
Anahola, HI 96703

From: michael moore
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:06:47 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

michael moore
77-447 ho'omaluhia place
kailua kona, HI 96740

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: jbsestak@prodigy.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:12:15 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Betty Sestak	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: georgepbarbour@gmail.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Cc: George Barbour; Holly Berlin
Subject: Strongly Support Marriage Equality for All in Hawaii
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:15:07 PM

Aloha Committee Members,
Below is my testimony.

Mahalo Nui Loa.

Testimony for the House Committee on Judiciary
Testimony for the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Aloha Committee Members,

My husband and I were married last year in New York City after 34 years together as a committed gay couple. It was a wonderful occasion, but sadly our own state did not offer us the opportunity to marry in our own community. We have lived and owned our home on Molokai for over 10 years. We have always been accepted by our neighbors and co-workers as a committed couple. My husband teaches in the community and I'm involved in volunteer work and I am a member of the Molokai veterans center.

While we have taken the legal steps to protect our interests we still continue to be discriminated against by insurance companies who refuse to allow us the benefits of family/couple insurance rates. While we can file joint tax returns at the federal level we can't at the state. That is why marriage equality at the state level is important now.

What is even sadder is that the members of the US armed forces stationed and living here in our state must go elsewhere to marry. Otherwise they can not receive full marriage rights at the federal level. These men and women protect us, live in our neighborhoods, shop in our stores And are our friends and yet our state denies them this basic right. That is not the Hawaiian way.

Finally I want you to know that I have reviewed the draft legislation and believe that the provisions protect members of the clergy from coercion in the performance of marriages between same sex couples.

Thank you for supporting marriage equality in Hawaii.

Mahalo Nui Loa

George P Barbour, Jr.
100 Lio Place A3
PO Box 319
Maunaloa, HI 96770

808-552-2429

Sent from my iPad

From:	Lyle Roe
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Cc:	Law Alvin Ty
Subject:	sb1, marriage equality, civil rights, special session
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:14:59 PM

Dear Chairman Hee and Members of the Hawaii Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong, passionate, and hopefully reasoned support of SB 1.

I moved to these Islands a year and a half ago. I moved with my partner and boyfriend because his family needed him to come back from the mainland and help manage their farm. As I have a background in agriculture, the move seemed ideal for us. We were exhilarated when HB 1109 was introduced in January, and we had moderate hopes for its passage. We followed the bills lack of progress through the entire session -- *disappointment* doesn't really begin to touch the emotions we experienced.

We were ecstatic when the Supreme Court handed down its landmark pair of decisions in June, and we joined our brothers, sisters, and allies in urging the Governor to call this special session to deal with this issue. It is my hope that this committee and this chamber will honor the spirit of equality and civil rights for gay men and women.

The arguments are all out there, but there is one that I feel deserves some attention: the question of why civil unions aren't enough. For the same reason that separate drinking fountains were not enough for African-American men and women in the Deep South, civil unions, while a blessing a reprieve, do not represent full equality under the law. We honor the idea that *separate is inherently unequal*, as noted by Justice Earl Warren in Brown v. Board (1954). In the same way that a separate water fountains, even if fancy and gleaming new, are designed to maintain separation and distinction between the majority and minority groups, so civil unions, while helpful in alleviating some of the challenges and legal issues that my gay brothers and sisters endure, it, STILL, is not equal. I am mindful and appreciative of the effort that many in the legislature made to pass civil unions. Truly, it has been a blessing and a lifesaver for many. But it was still a patch; an interim effort to mitigate the rampant disadvantages and discrimination that we faced, and still face, while we waited for the opportunity to pass full marriage equality.

That day is here. Civil Beats, Star Advertiser, and an entire host of Mainland news and polling organizations corroborate each other in the showing that the majority of Americans now support marriage equality. 2012 was a landmark year for marriage equality -- it passed in every statewide contest to which it was submitted. The President supports marriage equality. The Supreme Court has upheld the concept of marriage equality. Democrats and many Republicans support marriage equality. The Governor supports marriage equality. And I believe a strong majority of your chamber supports marriage equality.

Marriage for gay men and women means full equality under the law, and the opportunity to express our love for each other in the same way that you can. *I respectfully ask you to vote YES on SB 1.*

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my testimony.

LYLE ROE
Operations Manager
FAT Law's Farm, Inc.

http://fatlawfarm.com
lyle@fatlawfarm.com
facebook

C 269 277 6778
F 808 681 6889

This message may contain confidential and privileged information. If you are not the addressee, you may not use, copy, or disclose this message. If you received this message in error, please delete it and advise the sender listed above.

From: Kevin Rebelo
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:20:00 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kevin Rebelo
3525 Lanihou Place
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Craig Tennant
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:21:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha anyone who cares,
We've been together in Hawaii for 24 years now. In February of 2012 we got "civilly unionized". I was able to get on the family businesses health plan. In January of 2013 we learned that my benefit was taxable and that our income would drop by 70.00 a week! We're feeling ripped off to say the least! Penalized by our union! And of coarse this is just one example of the unfairness we face because of laws created and enforced by lawmakers and unsupportive citizens who I believe really still have no idea what it means to be born gay, and how dare they think they have the right to persecute us and to control our freedoms. We are truly offended and angry at the notion that these issues should go to the ballot box. Anyone who would vote against us comes from a place of ignorance and for that reason alone, they should not get to voice an opinion.
Equality for all, Thankyou for standing with us.
C&R

Craig Tennant
P.O.Box 382
Laupahoehoe, HI 96764

From: Jamie Louis
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:23:40 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jamie Louis
PO Box 269
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: Rev Dr Mele Welte
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:26:35 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

This issue is not a religious issue. This is about the US Constitution and equal rights life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all citizens. That means that this equal rights issue like slavery was, cannot be decided by what the people would or would not support. This is not something that is up for discussion and debate. This simply means equal rights for adult citizens of this nation and this state means the equal right to chose to love and to marry another adult no matter male or female.

Our aloha state is sadly so out of aloha in regard to this equal right that it is beyond tragic that we have not yet passed this bill for the equal right of legal marriage between two consenting adults here. We should have been the first state to pass this law! Now we are dragging behind not just many other states, but the US Supreme Court. When will the religious leaders who are trying to keep this from being passed not being told that this is not about religion, but about the constitution and equal rights under the law? Those who are elected here are elected to hold up the constitution of our state and of our nation. Do it now!

Rev Dr Mele Welte
291 Kipukai Place
Honolulu
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: JamesJimjim35@aol.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Fwd: MY TESTIMONY - MY STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:28:14 PM

October 23, 2013

Monday, October 28, 2013 – 10:30 a.m.
Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol Auditorium
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1

Aloha Chairperson Hee and Fellow Committee Members,

I respectfully ask that you SUPPORT Senate Bill 1 for Marriage Equality.

In our world today - and particularly in our amazing Aloha State - we should help lead the nation and the world recognizing every person's right to love and marry their partner.

Supporting Senate Bill 1 is the right thing to do.
History will judge us by the actions we take on Senate Bill 1.
Please be on the right side of History.

I thank you, in advance, for your support.

Mahalo and very best wishes to you all,

James Doran
1133 Hihimanu Street
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Julia Gomes
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:28:55 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Julia Gomes
46-359 Haiku Rd. Apt. B9
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Dawna Gomes
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:30:25 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dawna Gomes
46-359 Haiku Rd. Apt. B9
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Jim-Michael Cardenas
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:31:36 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jim-Michael Cardenas
931 Self Lane
Honolulu, HI 96819

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Place:Capitol Auditorium

Re: Insistent Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am sure that today you will be hearing and witnessing many stories in support and against this bill, but I'd like to share with you how real the implications of your decision are for my family.

I am a local girl - born and raised in Kailua. I left home for seven years only to return as a single mother because I wanted to raise my child in a culture and place that respected diversity and demonstrated aloha. As a student affairs professional, I have worked at three local higher education institutions; in every role that I have served, I have strive to demonstrate and cultivate an atmosphere of respect and inclusion for my campus communities and student populations.

Several years ago, I met the woman who has become my partner in this life and my wife. Amanda currently serves as the Director of Compliance at UH Manoa. Originally from Australia, she has been in Hawaii since 1996; recruited as a student-athlete and pursuing her bachelors and masters studies, she has made a home and a life for herself in our state. She has served in some capacity in the Athletics Department since her arrival to Hawaii, but has not yet been able to get a green card. Australia has a lottery system for green cards and, despite regularly entering the lottery, she hasn't had the "luck of the draw".

Since meeting Amanda, she and I have built a life together in this place that we call home. Our daily life is filled with the daily reality of raising our 8-year-old son, Kaleo, who attends Liholiho Elementary where I serve on the School Community Council; going to soccer practices and games which Amanda serves as coach and referee and any other role that needs to be filled on any given day; both Amanda and I go to our offices and serve our college students to the best of our abilities - doing what we can to foster their growth and development and belief in the "anything can be accomplished" philosophy because we know that our students are capable; we pay our bills; we go to the library; we cook our meals; we connect with our friends and our families; we advocate and educate; we do what we can to ensure that we leave our little corner of the world a better place than it was when we arrived here. We don't ask or care what happens in the bedroom - or any other intimate space - of our neighbor ... much less any other stranger that we encounter in our daily lives. And we expect that same respect to be reciprocated.

We are responsible and capable adults who are able to make decisions for our life. We hold our own beliefs and morals and we don't require anyone else to buy into them. We respect that others have differing opinions on life and how to live it. But the opinions of others should not have the power to determine the legitimacy of our family. The spiritual or religious beliefs of others do not have the power to do so either. I was raised in a Baptist school and the Catholic church; I know many faces of God. But I also know that the foundational tenet of Christianity of FREE WILL. The very nature of disputing the freedom to marry is in contradiction to the fundamental beliefs of the religious argument that so many are putting forth against marriage equality.

All of that aside, marriage equality is a civil right - not a privilege of the majority. Had the opinion and the right of the majority determined the rights of the minority, I might never have been born. You see, I'm the product of an interracial marriage. It wasn't that long ago when it was determined that the mixing of races was detrimental to society and religion and the foundation of this world as we know it. None of that was true. And it isn't pertinent now to same-sex marriage either. At the end of the day, who I lie down to, who I've committed my life and myself to, who I fight the daily battles of life and raise my child with doesn't affect the choices made by any other family. But the choice of passing this bill DOES affect our rights and ability to continue life as equal citizens. Most immediately, without the passing of this bill, I will STILL NOT be able to sponsor my wife for a green card because we will not be the federal rights and responsibilities to a heterosexual couple.

Seriously, is the most persuasive argument put forth against my marriage to my wife that one of us doesn't have a penis? Yes - that is a ridiculous and stupid argument. But, when you whittle away the pretty language and the religious justifications that the opposition of SB1 is putting forth, that is the crux of their argument.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don’t turn our backs on family. No member of anyone’s ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From: Elizabeth Seiffert
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:36:11 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Elizabeth Seiffert
636 University Ave
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: Alisa Vongsy-Banouvong
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:38:41 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Alisa Vongsy-Banouvong
Ilima Hall 637B 2975 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Thuy Nguyen
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:39:24 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thuy Nguyen
1634 Leilehua Ln
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Anthony De Jesus
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:46:13 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anthony De Jesus
491A Kamalu Road
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: Heidi Cramer
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:52:15 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Heidi Cramer
1200 Kauhikoa Rd
Paia, HI 96708

From: Audrey Litke
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:58:45 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Audrey Litke
968 Waiono Place
Kihei, HI 9673

From: james clawson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:05:06 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

james clawson
2463 kuhio ave
201
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Marti Townsend
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:05:56 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marti Townsend
Honolulu
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Katie
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Gay marriage
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:35:23 PM

I am a 51 year old professional female who lives and works in the kau district on big island- I am in favor of marriage rights to gay/lesbians- we care for your health, we teach your children, we worship under the same God- I would not deny your family the right to access health care, education- please allow me the same right as I afford you- I am fully capable and able to choose who I love- and who I choose to share my life with. Marriage between a man and a woman solely is a thing of the past- like it or not- I am marrying my girlfriend- I have been married and divorced, and I am the healthcare professional that may someday save your life- accept this or not- this is the reality of our times-

Thank you

Katie louise

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jaushlyn Mansinon
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:36:07 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I have been with my partner for 5+ years and we are expecting our first son. Without the recognition of marriage equality, if something happens to myself or my partner, no rights are guaranteed legally to either of us to take care of our son.

Those of us in same sex relationships know where we're welcomed and where we're not. We're not asking for marriage equality so we can sue Church's for not allowing us to have our ceremonies in their church. It's Hawaii...we have no problem getting married under the beautiful blue sky at a park or on the beach. The place of where we get married isn't the #1 priority on our list. Our #1 priority is our family and our loved ones.

Could you imagine not being able to marry the person you love and have devoted your life to because the Government, YOUR Government, says you can't. "You're lucky you live in the United States of America" is an expression we often hear. Yet, when I think of OUR America, I unfortunately do not see the freedom they see. I see the restrictions set by our Government when it comes to the one thing that us as humans always want - to love someone wholeheartedly and join them in a journey of forever together.

We are not asking for preferential treatment. We're only asking for equality...to be treated and afforded the same rights that everyone else receives.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality. My family and other families in the same situation, are depending on it.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jaushlyn Mansinon
876 Curtis St
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Marion Poirier
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:38:15 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marion Poirier
95-584 Naholoholo Street
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Judy Schmidt
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:44:14 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Judy Schmidt
100 Hau'oli st
310
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Bernard Nunies
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:46:10 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bernard Nunies
725 Kapiolani Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Noralynn Schubert
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:45:55 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am the mother of four children, one of whom is a proud, out, and active member of the LGBT community. My children are all equal to me and they should be equal under the laws of our state. My three daughters have protections and benefits under the law but not my son because he is gay. I am equally proud of all of my children and expect that that the laws of our state and nation to afford each of them equal protections, opportunities, benefits, and support. My son should not have to live in another state in order to have equal protections under the law.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, my daughters can enter into marriage but my son cannot. A civil union is not equal to marriage.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. In my family, my son's coming out publicly in a national forum has given strength to others in our family to be true to themselves and come out with the support, acceptance and understanding of family. My son's coming out has also enhanced the dialogue in our family for openness and acceptance which has not been an easy task. My maternal and paternal family have very strong ties to the Catholic Church. My mother, aunts, and cousins are alumni of Sacred Hearts Academy and my father, uncles, and cousins alumni of Saint Louis High School.

Religion is a personal choice. Marriage equality is a civil right. While many of the churches here in our state and nation do not support marriage equality, Pope Francis, the leader of the Catholic Church has acknowledged that "We have learned much about homosexuality in recent years. We now know that being gay isn't a choice, but something one is born with. If our Lord decides that someone should come into this world a certain way, who are we to judge his choice?" The churches do not represent or speak for the law but they do speak for a vocal minority in our nation, many of whom strongly believe that one group is more deserving of protections under the law than another. These churches speak for themselves and their beliefs. Civil rights are not beliefs. Marriage equality is not a belief. Marriage equality is a Civil Right.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Many of the marriages here in Hawaii would have been illegal prior to the Loving v Virginia decision, including many in my own family and possibly your own. Marriage, as acknowledged by our government, comes with legal protections, benefits, responsibilities and opportunities. The government should not have two tiers of consenting adults where one group is afforded legal protections and the other not. The government does have a responsibility to ensure equal protections under the law to all of its citizens. Denying marriage equality to our gay community is the government denying equal protections and keeping our gay community in a second-class tier. That is not acceptable, it is not pono, and it is not just.

I have grandchildren and hope to see the day when I also have great-grandchildren and they are each equal to me

and I expect they will have equal protections under our laws. It is time for Hawaii to ensure that our generations of today and tomorrow are treated with equality under the law regardless of whether they are "straight" or gay. For Hawaii to not legalize marriage equality is to say that we in Hawaii have our family and communities in first-class and second-class tiers. That is not acceptable in any ohana and is not acceptable in our state.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Noralynn Schubert
1722 Makiki St. Apt. 504
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: allen yamashita
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:48:49 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The upcoming marriage equality bill is an important opportunity to demonstrate leadership in social equality here in Hawaii. As the US Supreme Court has already debated and determined, the institution of marriage is an important covenant to be shared -- regardless of race, gender, religious persuasion, political affiliation, or yes, sexual orientation. Bigotry, in any shape or form, should not and cannot be condoned or practiced in a great society such as ours; one striving to evolve into a more competitive, progressive and enlightened state.

Help continue to promote tolerance, inclusion and diversity. Please, cast your vote on the right side of history.

allen yamashita
66-1434 Puu Hulululu Rd
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: Patty Gorski
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:52:56 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Patty Gorski
165 Fraser
11c
L?na'i city, HI 96763

From: Rev. Kerry Grogan
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:00:35 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a clergy person, I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.
The law allows for religious freedom and extending equal rights to all does not take away anyone's religious freedom.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rev. Kerry Grogan
610 Uluoa St
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Richard Taylor
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:06:14 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Richard Taylor
922 Kaahue Street
United States, Commonwealths and Territo
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Matthew Yoshida
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:13:22 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

When West Virginia's long serving senator Robert Byrd died in 2010, his obituary stated, "Of the record-setting 18,500-plus Senate votes Byrd cast, he said his biggest regret was opposing the 1964 Civil Rights Act, a landmark law that brought down barriers for black Americans." Today our country is unquestionably moving toward achieving marriage equality in the near future. As our society moves beyond its prejudice against our LGBTQ community, any justification for opposing this move toward equality will fade and be replaced by the same regret that haunted Senator Byrd for half of his life.

Please do what is right and pass this bill to allow for marriage equality in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Matthew Yoshida
2950 Ala Ilima St. apt 702
Honolulu, HI 96818

From:	Phillip Timmons
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:29:05 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Phillip Timmons
Evelyn ln
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Neil Vonhof
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:42:32 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Neil Vonhof
1209 W Kuiaha Rd
Haiku, HI 96708

From: Ralph L Heidenreich
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:48:48 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ralph L Heidenreich
1234A Saint L:ouis Drive
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Dane Anderson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:52:34 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Gay and lesbian couples get married for the same reasons as any legally married heterosexual couple – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. The right to marriage should not be denied simply because it is a gay couple instead of a straight couple seeking to be married. Furthermore, allowing gay couples to marry positively supports the many families and friends of those who are gay as well as the children in those loving families. Marriage equality will also boost Hawaii's economy.

Opponents argue that this issue should be left to a vote by the people. But advancements in civil rights would have never been achieved for any minority group if those rights were left to a popular vote.

As an elected leader who has the power to stand up for what is right and protect minorities, please do the right thing and pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dane Anderson
2029 Nuuanu Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96817

October 23, 2013
Monday, October 28, 2013 – 10:30 a.m.
Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol Auditorium
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1

Aloha Chairperson Hee and fellow committee members,

I urge you to support marriage equality for same-sex couples.

Like all people, gay and lesbian couples want to marry because of love, commitment, and the desire to build a strong `ohana. It is only right that they be given the opportunity to share in the freedom to marry. The government should not be in the business of telling anyone -- gay or straight -- that they can't marry the person they love.

Please, stand on the right side of history.

Mahalo!

Joseph Savino
PO Box 390
Kaumakani, Hawaii 96747
Kauaiboy4200@aol.com

From: Beth Anderson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:56:53 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

It is time to stop discriminating and to treat everyone as equal under the law.

Beth Anderson
234 Pauahilani Pl.
Kailua, HI 96734

Aloha Mai Kākou,

My name is Kedan Frank and I write to you today to show my strong support of SB1. I also would like to give my warmest mahalo to the committee for their consideration of this bill.

I personally believe that I am an honest and true person that does my best to better myself and my community. Not only am I a tax paying citizen that works full time but I also spend a tremendous amount of time volunteering as both a Board Member and Camp Leader for C.R.E.A.T.E One ‘Ohana (a Non-Profit Organization that helps LGBTQI and allied youth right here in Hawai‘i)! As an active member of the community I feel that it is only fair that I be given the same rights as my heterosexual neighbors, co-workers, friends and family.

SB1 represents more than just a piece of paper to me. As a Native Hawaiian I have been taught that my culture accepts me for who I am. To have the same recognition and rights on the State’s level would be absolutely amazing. I have been in a committed relationship with my partner for almost nine years. Everyone knows us as loving couple that would be willing to do whatever is necessary to help a person in need. That is why I ask you today to take a deep look into your hearts and show us compassion and kindness. What does our love have to do with anyone else but us? We live together, have a car together, pay bills together and one day hope to raise children together. With all that being said, I only feel that it is right to recognize us as one unit together.

I personally hope that you will take my testimony into account and the many others that I am sure you will be receiving. It’s 2013 and it is definitely a time for a change, a time for progress and a time to show acceptance for all of Hawai‘i’s people.

Mahalo for your time,

Kedan Frank

From: Terea Macomber
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:57:40 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

Being from Las Vegas where marriage ceremonies are overseen by terrible Elvis impersonators, conducted in drive-thrus, or even held at a strip club; I am aware of what damage can be done to the institution of marriage. One's sexuality is not one of them.

I've always seen Hawaii as a place of unity, generosity, and 'ohana. Nature's forces came together and created these beautiful islands; the generous rainfall and tropical temperatures allowed for a beautiful array of plants and animals which should all be reflected in society.

Inhibiting couples to get married because of their sexual orientation is just as an offense if the government was still keeping different races from marrying. If this was still true, my Mom(black) and My Dad(white) would never have married and we all know where I would be...non existent.

I look forward to being witness to your history changing decision supporting Equal Marriage. Thank You.

Terea Macomber
PO Box 22651
Honolulu, HI 96823

From: David Schlicher
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony in support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:14:13 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is David Schlicher, and I serve as the pastor of Makawao Union Church on Maui. I am writing in strong support of SB 1, though this letter reflects my views, and not those of the congregation I serve. Thank you for the chance to provide this testimony.

Before moving to Maui, I had the honor of officiating at five same-sex weddings in California during 2008. One was between two men who had been together for 26 years. I remember how moved they were to receive legal recognition for their long-standing commitment to each other. Another was between two women who were raising their infant daughter. It was a delight to marry her two mommies, and by doing so make available the protections that the state provides for families.

All families face the same challenges in our day, no matter the gender or sexual orientation of the parents. The tax advantages, parental rights, and inheritance rights support our families in the difficulties of these times.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. The Supreme Court has ruled that it so fundamental that even incarcerated individuals cannot be denied it. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

I have heard some state representatives say that we should “let the people decide.” It sounds so very reasonable, and isn’t that the way democracy works? And yet, history shows time and again that the majority does not reliably defend minority rights. As Americans, we are bound by law and a constitution and it is inappropriate put fundamental rights up for a vote. I would urge you therefore to oppose any constitutional amendment on this issue.

I also urge caution in modifying the exemption for churches and religious institutions lest we codify discrimination. The current provisions in the civil unions law, to me, strike a delicate, but necessary balance. While no religious leader should ever be required to officiate at any wedding, churches that make money from hosting weddings should continue to be treated as public accommodations. Some further clarification of what it means to be in the “business” of performing weddings, however, would be warranted.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Schlicher
1465 Baldwin Ave
Makawao, HI 96768

From: James Kuloloio
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:13:59 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Passions run high on both sides of this very important issue. Religion aside, the way I see it is that it is both the state and federal governments and not any religious institution that is the issuer of government benefits. The federal government does not recognize Hawaii's civil unions nor any domestic partnerships thus it specifically affords married heterosexual couples only with exclusive access to those benefits. This is discriminatory towards same-gender couples who wish to be treated with equal respect according to the U.S. Constitution. The time is now. Let us all live with Aloha and embrace our LGBT community, family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and truly welcome everyone who wish to be married in Hawaii.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality/equity for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

James Kuloloio
35 iliau way, 15C
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Gary Passon
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:32:50 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gary Passon
1390 S. Kihei Rd
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Rev. Elizabeth Anderson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:32:32 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rev. Elizabeth Anderson
114 North Kuakini #208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817, HI 96817

From: Kevin Cochran
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:36:49 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a licensed mental health professional in the State of Hawaii, as well as the son of a gay father, this is a topic that is close to me. I've witnessed the pain of my father who has not been able to marry his partner of 29 years, and I can not think of one good reason why these two loving men should not be able to enjoy the same benefits that are afforded to me because I am straight. Furthermore as a professional I have seen first hand the negative impact that not having the right to marry has on gay and lesbian couples. It's senseless and cruel, and needs to be rectified. I'm requesting that you pass SB1 and add Hawaii to the list of states that are standing up for equality and decency. It is time to show ALL of Hawaii's residents our aloha.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kevin Cochran, MS, LMHC

Kevin Cochran
P.O. Box 551723
Kapaau, HI 96755

From:	Hayley K. Ham Young-Giorgio
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:09:59 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am a married mother-to-be from Kauai - "straight" if it matters - writing in support of SB 1.

I see relationships and connections as natural occurances in life and believe each person is entitled to surround themselves by the people they establish those strong connections with. I don't see marriage being a violent act and find it unreasonable to not allow two people, regardless of sex, to be united by marriage.

I don't believe I am any better than any other person based on sexual preference and don't see the purpose in condemning same-sex marriage from society. Homosexuality naturally occurs in many species; and religious insecuritities should not be the basis of government. Why not be humble to accept that homosexuality is natural for the human race as well? Why continue trying to hide it?

I believe you are all evolved enough to make this logical decision. Lets pass this bill and move on to real issues like improving education and sustainability within our islands...

Hayley K. Ham Young-Giorgio
PO box 1669
Hanalei, HI 96714

October 18, 2013

State of Hawaii Legislature,

Please accept this as my written testimony in support of Hawaii's Marriage Equality Act of 2013. This is the time we as humans must rise above individual bias and notions of right and wrong. This act is not about proving any group of individuals right or wrong. This special legislative session is about coming together to respect and protect the rights of all people.

Arguments gay marriage will harm the family, is not God's will, is not natures law, or condones are particular life-style are possibly the must grotesque misinterpretations of the human culture. A cursory review of the historical and culture presence of homosexuality easily disproves any of these points. In truly accepting and supporting cultures homosexual individuals have been respected, supported, and contributed to the overall health and wellbeing of the culture.

It is unfortunate that a group of individuals is not provided the same civil rights of the majority. Today's meeting is a natural progression and recovery from the harm created by those that found it necessary to deprive minority rights. People thought it was crazy when women were allowed to vote. Well things seem just fine and 2016 may bring us our first woman President of the United States.

Today is not about making a decision. It is about correcting the misnavigation of our past political ancestors. The world is allowing us the opportunity to do what is required of us legally assure civil rights begin and continue for all people.

Today I ask you to put away your personal bias. Put away your ego. Put away your prejudice. Bring your compassion. Bring your ethics. Bring your gumption to do what is right. Assure the world and the State of Hawaii become a better place.

Mahalo,

Beau Laughlin, M.S., BCBA
56 Lauamewa Lp
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Thomas Tizard
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:13:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

First, let me state that I am straight but not narrow, and I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love, AND, I know of none who have broken those promises and divorced!

Heterosexual marriages, however, are in deep trouble -less than 50% of cohabiting couples ever marry, and more than 50% of those who do, subsequently divorce! These 'traditional" marriages need to be saved, and should be the focus of the groups that are wasting their time trying to deny marriage to others.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. It's good for our people, good for our economy, and good for the possible children (who, incidentally, are better-adjusted than children of heterosexual marriages!).

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thomas Tizard
564 Uluhala St.
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Beth Evesong
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: 32 year same sex relationship for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:15:28 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:
We are in support of SB 1.
I am in a relationship of 32 years with my partner. Because we are both women we could not get married legally in our home state of Hawaii. We got legally married in California. It is time for Hawaii to show aloha to all. Don't make same sex couples leave their home to get legally married. We live aloha here in Hawaii. We are an accepting state. Let's bring marriage equality to all Hawaii's citizens.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Beth Evesong
PO Box 4484
Hilo, HI 96720

From: William Musick
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Support for SB1 - Justice Delayed is Justice Denied
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:19:10 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in support of SB 1.

"Justice delayed is justice denied"...This concept of traces its roots from the ethical and moral principles of the rabbinic literature of the first century BCE, reappears in the Magna Carta in 1215, and in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail", smuggled out of jail in 1963. Legislators wishing to further delay a decision on this question using smoke screens related to concerns about the validity of a special session or wanting to submit the issue to a vote of the people are simply attempting to delay the inevitable, which effectively prohibits Hawaiian citizens and their families from accessing rights provided to them in the Supreme Court's decision earlier this year in United States v. Windsor. We've seen far too many occasions in recent years of legislatures "kicking the can down the road." Please do the right thing and make a decision now, and then move on in the upcoming legislative session with all of the other important issues facing our State ….Pono kaulike!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

William Musick
2130 Haena Dr
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: JOSEPH FONDEUR
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:31:18 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

JOSEPH FONDEUR
84-740 KILI DRIVE
APT. 630
WAIANAE, HI 96792

From: William Schmidt
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:36:24 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

William Schmidt
Kukui St
202
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Henry Horton
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:29:55 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

As a 77 year old gay man, 15 year resident of Hawaii island I want to live in a state that recognizes marriage equality. No religion grants marriage lisences or divorces. These are civil contracts and dissolutions of same. Since legal marriage is therefore a civil NOT a religious issue the whole thing boils down to equal rights under the law. Please bring Hawaii into the 21st century. Doma is dead. Na mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Henry Horton
PO box 1802
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: Bradford Lum
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:42:18 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bradford Lum
1611 Keeaumoku #202
1611 Keaaumoku Street #202
Honolulu, HI 96822

To:	Senator Clayton Hee, Chair Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee Testimony of Marilyn B. Lee in favor of SB1

October 23, 2013

Dear Senator Hee and Members of the Committee,

I speak in strong support of SB 1, which will allow same sex marriage in the State of Hawaii. This action is more than long overdue, and the findings of the Hawaii Supreme Court over 20 years ago that there was no reason to deny marriage to same sex couples, have been validated by subsequent studies.

It is unfortunate that our State has taken so long to recognize such marriages, but when the Supreme Court struck down DOMA earlier this year, it became imperative that the Legislature act.

I am confused by the objection of some churches to this change in our law. We should not let certain churches dictate to the government the legal meaning of marriage, and I do not believe there needs to be any expansion of the public accommodations law, as it was written in the Civil Unions Law.

As for a constitutional amendment, I believe Civil Rights should never be put to a vote, and congratulate the Senate on their strong stand on this issue.

Lets allow Hawaii to join the worldwide movement towards recognition of marriage equality, and show we are truly the Aloha State. I understand that some of you have been severely criticized for your intention to vote yes, but please be aware there are many out there that will think of you as Heros and Heroines when SB 1 becomes law.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Much Aloha,

Marilyn B. Lee
95-170 Newe Place
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: sunshinetopping@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:48:47 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Sunshine Topping	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I absolutely agree with marriage equality. I think if two consenting adults love each other, they should be able to enjoy life as a married couple. It is sad that in this day and age we are able to legally sanction prejudice against a basic civil right.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: June Dillinger
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:01:31 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

June Dillinger
3150 Charles Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: blythecsk@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:03:27 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Blythe Stephens	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My life, and the lives of countless friends, is directly affected by this measure. My partner and I currently have a Civil Union, which has been a good step in the right direction, but this puts us in a strange grey area in terms of the law, and allows us to slip through the cracks in odd and discriminatory ways. Our Civil Union affords us all the same rights at the state level (making arguments against equal marriage particularly nonsensical, since virtually nothing will change in this state when marriage is extended to all couples), but none at the Federal level. Thus, last year I filed my taxes as "married" in Hawai'i, but "single" for federal taxes. What a slap in the face! But more than that, now that I am employed by the State of Hawai'i, I completed my new tax forms (W-2, etc) to reflect my different statuses, but the "system" (computer system?) can only recognize one marital status, so I had to choose one. I chose "single" since taxes will be withheld at a higher rate and I can then expect a return, rather than having to pay at tax time, but it really hurt me to claim to be single when in fact I am not. I am deeply committed to my partner and once I graduate with my MFA from UH in 2015, we hope to adopt children. It is important to us that we be a legal family by that time, both to celebrate our love and to give protections to our family. We deserve the same rights as loving couples who happen to be straight! Hawai'i is the Aloha State and we should be leaders in recognizing love between people and affording equal rights! Let's stand on the right side of history and pass SB 1! Mahalo nui loa, Blythe Blythe Stephens

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: ROBERT KAKALIA
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:08:26 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My civil union partner and I are writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

We have been blessed with families that support us and embrace our lifestyle because we live productive and committed lives together maintaining close family ties.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

We should share in the same benefits and responsibilities that heterosexual married couples are entitled to. We have been blessed by our employers who recognize our relationship and extend those same benefits awarded to heterosexual employees. Our government should do the same.

We were blessed with being able to celebrate our civil union at an Oahu Shinto Shrine where the clergy were extremely supportive of us and our families. We respect the religious right's beliefs but only to the extent that those beliefs NOT cause fellow human beings any harm. Denying my partner and I this right to marry and the benefits that would be made available to us as a result causes us reprehensible harm and shames the very beliefs for which they stand for.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's ohana.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.
Robert Kakalia
Jeron Sambrano

ROBERT KAKALIA
94272 Kahuawai St
WAIPAHU, HI 96797

From: Doc Wilson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:08:47 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Doc Wilson
pob 659
POB 659
Kaaawa, HI 96730

From: Virginia Cantorna
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:11:17 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am in strong support of Marriage Equality. I am a licensed psychologist, registered nurse, Christian church board president, and have gay clients, friends and family members.

I had two gay friends who were long-time partners. One was admitted to the intensive care unit fighting for his life. The other was forbidden to visit and disallowed to make medical decisions for his partner because he was "not family." Imagine someone else, such as a parent who disowned you, making plans for your critical treatment! Stories such as this compel me to support same-sex marriage. I believe in the highest quality of life for ALL people.

Civil marriage will give same-sex couples the same economic security, protections and peace of mind that are enjoyed by heterosexual married couples.

The state and federal benefits include:
- Ability to visit or make medical decisions for an ill or incapacitated partner.
- Access to employer-provided health and retirement benefits.
- Bereavement or sick leave to care for a partner or child.
- Children's access to health benefits and inheritance from both parents.
- Children's right to maintain a relationship with the nonbiological/adoptive parent in the event of the death of the other parent.
- Joint insurance policies for home, auto, and health.
- Access to partner's coverage under Medicare and Social Security.
- The ability to sponsor one's partner for immigration.

I want those who now enjoy a legal marriage to imagine not having these rights and benefits. Unthinkable, right?

Please remember that there are many gay and lesbian individuals who are afraid to publicly show favor for this bill because of the stigma attached to coming out as gay. As well, young children of gay couples do not have a voice in this fight for their rights and privileges. Please be the voice for those who are silenced.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Virginia Cantorna
509 Komo Ohia St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Michelle Jones
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:23:28 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

Please vote yes on this bill. It is so important that the state shows its support for equality for all its people and not just those who are heterosexual. Gay and lesbian people deserve to have the same rights in all areas of life, marriage included. It should not be left up to the people to vote on civil rights. Our government has to be a role model for the people and stand for equality as the constitution commands. I truly believe that if we left it to a vote of the people women and people of color wouldn't have been able to vote, our communities and schools would remain segregated, people with disabilities would still be legally kept from working, separated from their communities in institutions and without rules about accommodations and modifications in school and society, and on and on and on. You represent us and we need you to stand up and represent what we stand for. This is the time to pass this bill and I want to personally thank you for voting yes and bringing equality to more citizens of the United States.

Sincerely,

Michelle C. Jones, MA Education
Case Coordinator Easter Seals Hawaii

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michelle Jones
168 elilani street
pukalani, HI 96768

From:	wendy kim messier
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	marriage equality
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:22:52 PM

I am writing on behalf of Charles Hill and Frank Lee.

Charles and Frank are the solid citizens; kind and compassionate people who love Hawaii and work to keep it a place we are proud to live in.

I believe equal rights should extend to marriage for all members of the GLBTQ community in Hawaii.

Wendy Kim Messier

From: Jim Henry
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:30:09 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

My life partner of many years is 69 years old; I am 61, currently working as an educator who puts in 50-60 hours a week educating the sons and daughters of Hawaii. I don't make a ton of money doing this, but I feel it is part of my "giving back" to a place that has given so much to me. Please treat me as you would treat any heterosexual citizen who similarly gives back.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jim Henry
1258A Center Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Alberta Joy Freidus-Flagg
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:58:53 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a civil right that should not be denied to anyone, nor should it be a ballot issue. Our country is not a theocracy; the separation of church and state must be maintained. I have yet to hear a rational explanation of how permitting same gender couples to marry negatively impacts the lives of others, particularly the lives of those who oppose it.

Please stand for family equality. It is only fair.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Alberta Joy Freidus-Flagg

Alberta Joy Freidus-Flagg
1721-I Young St
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: Keri Jones
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 6:16:48 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am making a personal request, that I may be able to legally marry my partner of 17 years. We moved to Hawaii because we believe in Hawaiian values of aloha, ohana, and 'aina. We love Hawaii and plan to live here the rest of our lives. It is very important that we are able to have the state and federal rights of marriage in our elder years, which do not come with domestic partnership.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. This is not about religion, it's about legal rights.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Keri Jones
83-5399 Middle Keei Rd.
Captain Cook, HI 96704

From: Kent Hirata
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 6:20:45 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB1.

The New Jersey Supreme Court recently remarked that "the state [of New Jersey] has advanced a number of arguments [against same-sex marriages], but none of them overcome this reality: Same-sex couples [in New Jersey] who cannot marry are NOT treated equally under the law today . . . The harm to them is REAL, not abstract or speculative."

Same-sex couples in Hawaii are likewise being denied a full and equal measure of justice because of Hawaii's current ban on same-sex marriages.

Of all available options for halting this oppression, SB1 stands out as the one which is supported by the most powerful reasoning and most compelling evidence, is most consistent with the legal protections guaranteed to ALL citizens by the U.S. Constitution, and is arguably the one which is most likely to place its implementers and supporters on the right side of history.

As Thomas Jefferson stated, "No man has a natural right to commit aggression on the equal rights of another." He also stated that "the minority possess their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate [them] would be oppression."

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kent Hirata
1666-A Lusitana Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: ritaryanrdh@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 6:23:44 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Rita Husted Ryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I wholeheartedly support this bill. When Brown vs. Board of Education was passed, as you know, it created an uproar in the Southern states: "Integration is just not right..." "White children and Negro children shouldn't mix; they are separate but equal, and that's how it should be kept..." "I don't want my child going to school with a Negro..." Some people still hold these views. We look at this and think, really? Marriage between same-sex couples, while not an exact parallel to this, is somewhat similar. People are being discriminated against. They are not allowed the same rights and protections as those who are heterosexual. Continuing to deny them creates a hostile environment because it sends the message "Discrimination against you is okay." It's not.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Carlye Hooten
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 6:34:50 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Over the decades, I have had the pleasure of friendship with many gay and lesbian people, including many couples. My experience is: we are all just people!! As recently as twenty years ago, a dear friend (a haole woman), moved here with her African-American husband because it was the most open-minded and least judgemental place she could find. We have long been ahead of the curve in our tolerant and inclusive attitudes. Lets please continue this trend and show the world what REAL democrats are!!

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. There are protections of law that should be extended to all who are willing to commit to a marriage!

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. It's one of the best things about this very special place. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Carlye Hooten
Puu Nanea St
Kamuela, HI 96743

From:	Aaron Gould
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 6:42:34 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My husband and I were legally married five years ago in Massachusetts. We would love to have our new home recognize our relationship as fully equal to those of our heterosexual friends and family.

I believe that love is one of the defining aspects of humanity and that recognition of marriage is a recognition of one's capacity to love and commit. Therefore, I see equal marriage as a recognition of our shared humanity and wholeness as people.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aaron Gould
700 Richards Street #2304
Honolulu, HI 96813

TESTIMONY OF MARK J. BENNETT ON SB 1

Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Labor

Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro, and Members:

I respectfully write in support of changing the law so as to allow same-gender couples the right to marry in Hawaii.

This would be right, just, fair, and consistent with the ideals and principles upon which our nation was founded.

Some have argued that marriage historically is between men and women. I have no reason to quarrel with that view of history, but that is not a reason to stay with the past. Mores change, as do views of what is just, right, and fair. *History* should not be a bar to fairer marriage laws.

Other reasons advanced for denying same-gender couples the ability to marry are similarly unconvincing to me. And, I believe none counterbalance the interests of justice promoted by allowing same-gender couples the same marriage rights possessed by opposite-gender couples.

Finally, some have suggested that the Legislature should pass the question to the electorate, through a proposed constitutional amendment. Yet, that is exactly what occurred in 1998, when the people approved a constitutional amendment that could have, but did not, ban same-gender marriage. Instead, the people gave the power to the *Legislature* to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples, thereby also giving the Legislature the power *not* to do so.

We are a nation and a state committed to justice and equality. Both of those principles would be well-served by changing the law so as to allow same-gender couples the right to marry in Hawaii.

I respectfully urge you to change the law and allow same-gender couples the right to marry.

October 23, 2013

Mark J. Bennett

From:	Rosalind Cole
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:16:54 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rosalind Cole
465 N. Kainalu Drive
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Shannon Furomoto
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:17:23 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shannon Furomoto
12 Waipaa Lane
42-102
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Donald Dole
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:33:50 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Donald Dole
1109
Kalihiwai place
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Alan Cota
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:54:56 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Alan Cota
1825 East West Rd
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Cassandra Matson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:59:11 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight or any other orientation – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I live in this state currently as a student who identifies as lesbian, and I think it would be a shame for this great state to not extend legal acceptance of same-sex couples. I want to know that if I fall in love, I will have the freedom to marry, and that me and my future partner will have access to all the rights marriage provides.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cassandra Matson
2500 Campus Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Teyah Bair
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:00:15 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

This personally affects me because I've been in a relationship with a woman for two years and I think it's important for me to have the same option to get married that all of my friends and my siblings have.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Teyah Bair
2583 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: ALAN HUIE
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:02:31 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to urge your support of SB 1. I am the owner of the landmark Crouching Lion restaurant and property in Windward Oahu. I employ over 30 employees. Our restaurant serves thousands of customers each year.

My partner and I have a three year old daughter born in Hawaii. To secure her future and to gain the legal recognition of our family, marriage equality must become law. Our Aloha Spirit and our concept of Ohana are incomplete without passage of SB1.

The constitutional rights of any disenfranchised group should not be subjected to a vote! For those who object to same sex marriages, they are free not to practice it. To those like us who have a real stake in the matter, we will fully embrace marriage equality with the responsibilities and benefits inherent in marriage.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

ALAN HUIE
2450 Koa Avenue
Penthouse
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Joyce Lam
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:02:31 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joyce Lam
2123 Puna Street
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Charlene Vasquez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:11:48 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I strongly believe that every person should have the right to marry the person they love regardless of gender. No one should be denied the federal and state benefits that come along with marriage. As a lesbian and member of the United States Navy I have lived through Don't Ask Don't Tell and the discrimination that held. When that was lifted myself and fellow military members were overjoyed to be able to serve our country without risk of being discharged. Now with DOMA lifted we have the opportunity to marry the person we love and add them to our benefits. The state of Hawaii has a huge military population and in that there are many lesbian and gay members wishing to get married. This would help our military and civilian residents in Hawaii. As a resident of Hawaii, I hope to someday marry the woman I love. Thank you for your time.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Charlene Vasquez
1525 Pensacola St
Apt 202
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Noelle Cambeilh
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:16:44 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Noelle Cambeilh
395A Kaholalele Road
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: Marlena Willette
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:43:31 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marlena Willette
46-259 Kahuhipa Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Arwin De Jesus
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong Support For SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:52:44 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. My best friend deserves to marry whoever he wants, just like everyone else. His heart is full of love & deserves the right to live his life the way he deems fit.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

P.S.

Arwin De Jesus
4154 Keaka Drive
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: Laurence Ramsey
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:01:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Currently, some federal agencies treat some marriages differently, according to what state one lives in. The following agencies use a standard of "you are married if your marriage was performed in a state that recognizes it": the State Department, the Defense Department, the IRS, and more. However, some other federal agencies such has the Social Security Administration will only recognize a marriage if the couple is resident in a state that recognizes the marriage.

I'm hopeful that, eventually, all federal agencies will adopt "recognized where performed" standard. In the meantime, the State of Hawaii is harming some couples by withholding recognition of their marriages. This discrimination should end.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laurence Ramsey
1521 Alexander St Apt 503
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Roberta Kokx
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:06:28 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to strongly support SB 1.

After a whirlwind three month engagement (and a twenty year courtship!), my partner and I got married in Sacramento, California on October 7, 2013.

Currently, our marriage is not recognized in our home state of Hawaii. We would like this changed.

Please support our civil rights and the rights of other same-sex couples to be legally married in Hawaii.

I believe marriage equality in Hawaii would strengthen families and build a strong community.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Roberta Kokx
21 Hakalani Place
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Laur Mallett
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:09:25 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laur Mallett
160 keonekai rd
21-202
kihei, HI 96753

From: Christine Nary
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:11:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Christine Nary
91-988 Laaulu st. #A
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: Karey Kapoi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:12:13 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Karey Kapoi
1379 Moohele St
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Mark Kadota
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Gay Marriage
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:33:14 PM

Dear Hawai‘i State Legislature,
I am so grateful that you are holding this special session around equality in marriage. I hope you will embrace a just and fair action.

Through out our history there have been different minorities denied equal treatment. Over the course of time we have amended many of these groups rights. Those who have stood up for these rights are the heros of humanity. They have seen through the stereo-typing and prejudices and acted in a brave and heroic manner.

I myself have experienced various forms of discrimination through my life-time. Growing up a Japanese/American on the mainland was challenging. As an adult I have been faced with another prejudice. I have been with my male spouse for 17 years. We have been legally married in the Netherlands for 4 years, as they honor same-sex marriages. He is Dutch and because of our laws we are denied recognition as my husband in our beloved Hawaii.

I hope you will vote in favor of Marriage Equality and keep Hawaii a land of Pono ways and a land of Aloha.
Sincerely,
Mark Kadota

From: Bernadette Urban
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:38:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

it's not about religion, it's about equality

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bernadette Urban
755711 Lamaokeola street
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: Norman Matsuzaki, jR.
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:42:37 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

The Hawaii Bill of Rights should protect the civil rights of all its citizens as well as those of us in the minority who may have a different political, cultural, or religious ideological belief and lifestyle. The legislature's reservation of marriage to opposite-sex couples is fundamentally unconstitutional, because it denies same-sex couples the freedom to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as well as to all the rights and privileges of the institution of marriage.

To reserve those rights and privileges to those individuals or groups different from us subjugates all of us to tyranny and to oppression. It blinds us to our obligations and responsibilities to each other as individuals and members of our community as well as to the common good.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Norman Matsuzaki, jR.
1250 Puu Kipa Street
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: Stephanie Hangai
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:56:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Stephanie Hangai
PO Box 235740
Honolulu, HI 96823

From: KATHERINE AKERBERG
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:59:27 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.
EVEN THE POPE IS ON THE SIDE OF EQUALITY OF PEOPLE.
Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

KATHERINE AKERBERG
HC2 BOX 6872
KEAAU, HI 96749

From: Atsumi Haga
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:21:10 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Atsumi Haga
747 Amana St. Apt 804
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: Eric Gilliom
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:33:41 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Eric Gilliom
30 Ohala Pl
Kula, HI 96790

From: Shannon Furomoto
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:06:28 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shannon Furomoto
12 Waipaa Lane
42-102
Wailuku, HI 96793

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Place:Capitol Auditorium

Re: Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to offer testimony in support of efforts to legalize gay marriage in the State of Hawaii.

I have respectfully listened to the arguments stated by opponent to this initiative, and I've found their talking points center around a few basic themes. I'd like to offer my perspective on these arguments for your consideration:

Opponent's Position: Gay Marriage goes against religious beliefs

The statute under consideration specifically states that no church or church official must perform a gay marriage if it goes against the teaching of their religion. Ministers are empowered by the government to perform marriages recognized by the state, but they are not required as agents of the state to perform marriages that go against their conscience. That is how it should be.

The gay marriage issue is not about religious recognition of a relationship, but rather a legal recognition of a relationship. The State of Hawaii does not require couples to marry in a religious context; so likewise, it should not base its decision about gay marriage using a filter centered on specific religious teachings.

Just as legislation should not dictate religious teachings, religious teachings should not dictate legislative efforts.

Opponent's Position: Gay Marriage threatens "traditional marriage"

It's difficult to refute this argument because it's difficult for me to understand its basis. If gay marriage is approved, do opponents expect a wave of straight people to suddenly abandon their inborn sexuality and enter gay unions? Do they expect gays to try to "recruit" straight people into relationships, thereby reducing the number of "traditional" marriages? Again, common sense would indicate that heterosexual individuals who want to marry will tend to seek out a heterosexual partner, and gay individuals will tend to seek out gay partners. The number of "traditional" marriage will remain the same no matter what.

Opponent's Position: Marriage was created to support children and the family

This argument would only hold water if all straight married couples were required to bear children. Yet we recognize the marriages of individuals who are well beyond child-bearing years, and we even celebrate with joy the marriages of senior citizens who find love in their golden years.

However, I consider even childless couples a family – and marriage truly does offer participants support through good times and bad throughout their lives. Married individuals know that there is always someone there to help them through life's challenges, and our legal recognition of their relationship

supports this lifelong bond. When a husband ponders the future, he knows that his Social Security will support his wife after he is gone. A sick wife knows that her husband can legally speak on her behalf if she becomes incapacitated. And both spouses know that they will be able to inherit assets earned over a lifetime together with minimal government interference.

The fact of the matter today, however, is that thousands of children in our country now live in homes headed by same sex couples. Gay couples, and gay families with children of their own (adopted or biological) also deserve these legal rights and protections. If gay marriage opponents are truly concerned about the well-being of children, they should stop worrying about the gender of their parents and focus on ensuring that all families have the support and resources they need.

Opponent's Position: Gay marriage should be decided by a popular vote

Many of those who use this argument would have personally suffered had the same argument been directed at them. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, a popular vote may well have inflicted even greater discrimination and persecution then the shameful activities against Japanese Americans that actually took place. A vote to grant equal rights to African Americans in the South would probably not have passed even in many of our lifetimes. And the movement to grant women suffrage faced a long and arduous journey despite what we would today accept as a "no brainer" outcome. While I would hope that a popular vote would, in fact, support gay marriage (as most polls indicate), I am disturbed by the fact that we would even consider the possibility that we would allow mob rule to determine what rights should be afforded to American citizens.

Opponent's Position: Gay Marriage would undermine the sanctity of marriage

There are far bigger threats to the sanctity of marriage than any supposed threat from gay couples. Celebrities like Brittany Spears and Kim Kardashian make a mockery of marriage with their highly publicized marriages and divorces. TV shows like "The Bachelor," "Temptation Island," "Millionaire Matchmaker" and "Trading Spouses" reduce the institution of marriage to game show status. And then there is the internet, which offers sites such as "Ashleymadison.com," a dating site for married people who want to cheat on their spouses.

The biggest threat to the sanctity of marriage is our epidemic of divorces. And if gay marriage were indeed a threat to the sanctity of marriage, one would expect divorce rates to be higher in gay marriage states. In fact, a study by the NBC new affiliate in Chicago found the opposite: divorce rates are actually higher in states that prohibit gay marriage. Massachusetts, the first state to allow gay marriage, has the lowest divorce rate in the country, a divorce rate that has *declined* 21 percent since legalizing gay marriage in 2004.

Opponent's Position: Gay marriage should not be recognized because gay sexual activity is unnatural:

This argument is a red herring and it is just as inappropriate when applied to gay and lesbian citizens today as it was when used to oppose interracial marriage just a few decades ago,. Common sense should dictate that intimate activity between consenting adults should not be a concern of the government, or come into play when discussing the legal recognition of a life-long commitment contract between two adults. As the US Supreme Court noted in *Lawrence v. Texas* "Our obligation is to define the liberty of all, not to mandate our own moral code."

Marriage and sex are not mutually, exclusively intertwined (either gay or straight). We assume sexual activity occurs in any marital relationship, but the government doesn't require, supervise or verify it, nor

does it provide prospective spouses a list of approved and forbidden sexual practices. Therefore the sexual aspect of a marital relationship should not be a consideration in this discussion. Indeed, one of the strongest attributes of any good marriage is that it stays intact even after sexual combustibility and/or ability wanes.

The Bottom Line

Hawaii's current recognition of Civil Unions affords gay couples the same rights as married couples in our state. It's a "separate but equal" designation. However, the Federal Government does not recognize this designation, depriving gay individuals of social security benefits, inheritance rights and tax advantages, and numerous other rights that are taken for granted by heterosexual couples. A vote to deny gay marriage in Hawaii is literally a vote to establish a legally acknowledged second class of citizenship because it deny some of our state's citizens the same rights and privileges available if they lived elsewhere in the US.

In state after state, court decision after court decision have all reached the same conclusion that the New Jersey Supreme Court reached just last week (October 18, 2013): The State (of New Jersey) has advanced a number of arguments, but none of them overcome this reality: same-sex couples who cannot marry are not treated equally under the law. The harm to them is real, not abstract or speculative."

I urge you to put Hawaii on the right side of history by approving gay marriage in our state.

Thank You,

Richard Ellis

From: Montana Rizzuto
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:07:22 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Over the course of my fairly short life, I have met a number of happy homosexual couples that are in love. These relationships are very real and last for a very long time; there is no reason why they should not be treated with the equal amount of respect that heterosexual relationships are given. I have friends who want to have a bright future which can include marriage ahead of them in this state. I have friends that wish to marry, but cannot yet. I have two moms who wish to see their marriage recognized by the state. I wish only to see them happy and treated as equals, as is their inalienable right as people.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for my friends, for my mothers, for those who are in love, and for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Montana Rizzuto
1825 E West Rd
Hale Kahawai rm 413B
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: catherine southern
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:34:42 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

catherine southern
425 haili street
hilo, HI 96720

From: Kimberley Haines
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 6:36:03 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

My personal story is that I was in a committed relationship for 34 years until my partner passed away 3 years ago. We just missed civil unions and legal marriage. I am hoping that for other committed couples legalized same-sex marriage will become a reality very soon. Marriage is a commitment that comes with love and with many responsibilities. Please give us the right to choose who to love and with whom to share those responsibilities. It will make Hawaii richer in many many ways.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kimberley Haines
1060-B Awawamalu St.
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Tom Piergrossi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1 from a married couple who is gay
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:45:20 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My husband and I were married in 2008 in CA, we went through prop 8 and all the hate that stirred up. We are now going through that same hate here in Hawaii. This is a civil rights issue, and is basically a done deal with the supreme court rulings, and the current demographics (younger voters are not as bigoted). The sooner this is decided the soon the hate will go away, my marriage effects no one but me and my husband. It is a non-issue, as doesn't change opposite sex marriage at all. All we want is to be treated with the same respect and have all the same protections any other married couple would have.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tom Piergrossi
PO Box 1868
15-1467 8th Ave
Keaau, HI 96749

From:	Raymond Dallou
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:46:27 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Raymond Dallou
RR2 Box 4529
Pahoa, HI 96778

Testimony from Barbara Polk in support of SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights, for the hearing before the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to be held October 28 at 10:30 am in the State Capitol Auditorium.

I regret that I will not be available to testify in person.

October 24, 2013

TO: Chair Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM Barbara Polk

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

I was in my teens and living in the South in the mid-1950s. At that time, many states still banned marriage between people of different races. I remember the arguments then—that inter-racial marriage was opposed by God, that inter-racial marriage would destroy marriage, would be the end of civil society, etc., etc. Of course the dire predictions did not happen, and today, as we look at the dynamic mix of people in Hawaii, we know that we are the richer for the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to rule those laws unconstitutional. And today we recognize the arguments made against inter-racial marriage as bigotry, pure and simple.

Yet today we hear those bigoted arguments again, opposing marriage for same sex couples, seeking to deny fellow citizens full equality in our society and the right to marry the person they love. Do not bow to these voices—they have not served us well in the past and do not now. Your responsibility as a State Senator is to protect and provide equal rights for all. Please vote Yes on SB 1.

From: Gail Nishimura
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:52:11 PM

To: The Senate, The Twenty-Seventh Legislature Interim of 2013, Committee on Judiciary & Labor

SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Senators:

I wish to voice my opinion on this subject. My partner and I have been together for 23 years this year. We are committed to each other and love each other very much. In 2006, we applied for Reciprocal Beneficiary status. We even had a Commitment Ceremony with our family and friends to show our commitment and love for each other! We just want equal rights given to us like everyone else. If my partner got sick and is in the hospital, I wouldn't be able to see her or make hard decisions for her and us. We are still people, we bleed blood like everyone else, we work, we play, we even pay taxes. Married couples enjoy the benefit of social security from their spouses when they pass. Why can't we? It is not fair!!

If you believe in reincarnation, and believe in having a soul mate, well it could be that perhaps you were a woman in your past life and your partner was a man, but now in this life, you both are women! Then you meet her and wow, I know I have feelings for that person, and swear that the person is your soul mate. It's the soul and the spirit that matters, not the body, the shell of humans. Tell the churches to mind their own business and stay out of ours! Don't judge us, only God can.

Come on people, this is our life not yours. We just want equal rights!

I appreciate and hope you vote yes for equality! Thank you very much for your time and consideration!

Mahalo!!

Gail Nishimura

From:	Richard Harrison
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly; Sen. Clayton Hee
Subject:	Protect our Rights!
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:15:35 PM

Senator Clayton Hee,

My name is Richard Harrison. I am not the most eloquent when it comes to writing or speaking but I pray that I will be able to adequately express what needs to be said in this letter today. I represent the thousands of young men and women throughout the country who are concerned for their future, the future of our families and the future of our posterity. I represent all those people who have always wanted to say something and never have, but today we must rise up and let our voices be heard. We are in complete opposition to the current bill being considered in the legislature of Hawaii! We are concerned for the protection of our religious and moral freedom! This bill is not sufficient in protecting our religious freedoms upon which this country was founded! When Columbus discovered the Americas did not thousands of immigrants leave everything they had to travel thousands of miles away to a land that they had never even before seen? To come to a place where crops failed and sickness prevailed? Risking their lives in war to become a separate nation from their previous homelands? And all for what? Freedom! The founding fathers created the government to protect the rights of the people. This bill does not protect our rights and if you think that Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, James Madison, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, or any of the great man who help found this wonderful republic would agree with this bill then you are wrong! How could they when they worked so hard to protect our freedoms and this bill simply does not? How is it that when the government decides to separate church and state that now there is question whether or not church leaders of different faiths should have to go against their own morals and solemnize same sex marriages? How is it that you can take the pledge of allegiance out of schools and impose new government policies upon religious sects against their doctrines? Senator Clayton it is your job to protect us as a people and all of the rights that come with being a citizen of this great country. Please help us by not approving of the current bill. This is a democracy and a small activist group should not and cannot override the voices of the rest of the nation. Protect our rights!

Richard Harrison

America's Future

Richwharrison@gmail.com

From: Lynn Shivers
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony Regarding SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:13:07 PM

Aloha and thank you for listening to testimony regarding marriage equality. As a voter, and as a human, I am expressing my **full and unequivocal support for marriage equality.** Ours is a government of the people, not of the church.

I feel strongly that those who love should be allowed to marry the person of their choice. A family member in another state married his same sex partner. Friends in other states have married their same sex partners. They love and honor each other, and have more respect for each other than many heterosexual couples I know.

The time has come to face reality. Marriage is not necessarily a bond sanctioned by a particular church. It is a bond sanctioned by the state. This is a civil rights issue, and unless we want to be a backwards-thinking state, we must stand for the rights of all. I am embarrassed that some wonderful people I know must leave the state in order to enjoy the privilege afforded others.

Mahalo,
Lynn Shivers
Hawaii Kai

From:	Byron Gangnes
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Please support SB1 for marriage equality in Hawaii
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 1:25:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Please support SB1 for marriage equality in Hawaii

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to ask you to support SB 1.

All residents of Hawaii deserve the same dignity and respect under the law.

As the parent of a lesbian daughter, I know the particular challenges that gay and lesbian citizens face. My daughter is a bright, capable and loving person who wants to participate fully in the life of her community. She and other gay and lesbian couples cannot do so as long as we deny them the basic right to live in a committed relationship and to share in the same benefits and responsibilities that come with this.

Susannah was thrilled to be able to marry her wife Laura in Minnesota on August 1, when marriage became available to all people of the state. But her right to equal treatment--and the rights of all Hawaii citizens--depends on our state and others also ratifying this fundamental right.

I hope that you will vote in favor of SB1 to ensure that all families have the same critical protections, and I hope that you will talk with all of your colleagues in the legislature to let them know how important this is to us.

Securing equal rights for same sex couples is the defining social justice issue of our time. Please be leaders in the
struggle to finally make those rights a reality. With your support for equality for ALL residents of Hawaii, we can make Hawaii an even better place to live, work and raise our families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Byron Gangnes
700 Richards Street #2310
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Cheryl Nelson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1 - Same Gender Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:57:57 PM

I fully support SB1 and urge a YES vote and passage of the bill.

I support equal rights for all under the Constitution...and this includes the right to enter into a legally recognized marriage by all...whether Straight or Gay. We are a nation of constitutional laws. I am a Progressive Christian who believes in the separation of church and state and pray for the courage of our elected leaders to do the right thing.

Thank you. Cheryl Nelson, Volcano, HI.

Sent from my iPad

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

BARBARA A. KRIEG
DIRECTOR

LEILA A. KAGAWA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

October 25, 2013

TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

For Hearing on Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m., Auditorium, State Capitol

BY

BARBARA A. KRIEG
DIRECTOR

Senate Bill No. 1
Relating to Equal Rights

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TO CHAIRPERSON HEE AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 1.

The purpose of S.B. 1 is to permit same-sex couples to marry in the State of Hawai‘i. The measure would also recognize marriages between individuals of the same-sex performed in other jurisdictions as a marriage in the State of Hawai‘i.

The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) administers certain employee benefit programs for State employees. DHRD supports S.B. 1 because it would provide the ability for State employees with same-sex partners to enjoy equal rights to benefits eligibility.

For example, the State offers wage and salary reduction benefit programs that provide the ability for employees to use pre-tax dollars to pay for certain benefits (e.g. medical expenses, dependent or child care, health insurance premiums). These benefit programs must be administered in strict compliance with certain rules and regulations, including the Internal Revenue Code provisions governing cafeteria plans. As a result, employees are eligible to apply these benefits to expenses for their spouse and/or spouse's dependents or children, but not for a non-spousal partner and his/her dependents or children.

As another example, married couples enjoy greater rights than civil union or domestic partners with respect to deferred compensation retirement benefits. Spouses have default beneficiary designation rights and more favorable distribution terms than non-spousal partners. In addition, an employee is eligible for hardship withdrawals to pay for a spouse's medical expenses, but not for the medical expenses of a non-spousal partner.

The passing of this measure would standardize the application of benefits for couples in a marriage independent of gender. The State, as an employer, should provide equal benefits to all employees. We strongly support S.B. 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

I have a few family members that this issue is very important to. Therefore, its an important issue to me.
I support this bill. I believe that same sex couples/individuals should have the same rights as anyone else.
Johanna Bugarin

From:	NJHawaiiWalter@aol.com
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Marriage Equality
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 3:50:56 PM

Honorable Legislature:
My partner and I have been together for almost 18 years. It's time that we were allowed to get married with all the benefits and obligations that go along with it.
This is not a religious matter and has nothing to do with any church. Of course, for most people living in our islands, the most important thing is to start bringing in the money that marriage equality will bring from weddings, receptions, florists, caterers, plane tickets, hotels, etc. We have been taxed enough. Let some of the mainlanders and people from other parts of the world help pay our bills by lowering our taxes.
Please vote for marriage equality. Twenty years is a long time for us to wait.
Respectfully,
Walter Mahr
95-1020 Paemoku Place
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

From: Soul Dancer
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Special Session Bill SB1 - RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS.
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:32:26 AM

Aloha Honorable(s) Clayton Hee, Maile Shimabukuro, Mike Gabbard, Les Ihara, Jr. and Samuel Slom,

I am a resident on the Big Island. I am a gay man who is also a monk and social worker (masters level). SB-1 creates equal access to those who seek to enjoy the benefits of being married.

In the spirit of Aloha, accept my testimony in favor of affirming SB-1 to recognize marriages between individuals of the same sex. Make it legal to extend to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive. Make this change effective 11/18/13.

Mahalo nui loa for your leadership, service and passion to support equality.

Soul Dancer
(yes, Soul Dancer is my birth name).
sd@souldancer.org

Founder: Soul University
Author: Pay Me What I'm Worth
Huffington Post Blogger
National Personal Worth Examiner
Twitter
Facebook
Skype me at souldancer0 (that's a zero at the end of my skype ID)
Media Kit

Janice C. Marsters, Ph.D.
2675 Hillside Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
(808) 371-8504 • janicem@lava.net

October 25, 2013

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT – SB1

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m., State Capitol Auditorium
(Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor)

Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Subject: **SB1, Relating to Equal Rights**

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Committee Members,

I strongly support SB1, Relating to Equal Rights. I commend the Senate for taking up this bill and strongly urge its passage. While I have lived in Hawaii for more than 20 years, I am originally from Canada, where the legal benefits of civil unions have been available to same-sex couples since the 1990s. Same-sex marriage has been legal nationwide since 2005. I feel society can only be enhanced by equality afforded to all couples and families. Some of the best families I know are homosexual couples providing loving homes for their children. I believe this is an equal rights issue, and that the rights normally afforded by marriage should not be withheld from same-sex couples who choose to make the commitment of marriage.

I believe the bill strikes a good balance and appropriately acknowledges religious freedom by allowing that religious entities and clergy are not required to conduct same-sex marriages if their beliefs are in opposition.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB1 and, again, urge you to pass this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice C. Marsters

Janice C. Marsters

From:	Bobich, Joseph
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 7:24:52 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I completely support marriage equality. It will benefit Hawai'i and it's residents, and I am sure legislation can be crafted to protect those who do not wish to participate in such, PROVIDED THEY ACCEPT NO PUBLIC FUNDS. It is sad to think we have less aloha than New Jersey, a situation I hope you will correct. It will truly, actually harm no one, so please pass it ASAP.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Bobich, Ph. D.
Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus

SAG-AFTRA
ONE UNION

October 25, 2013

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

FR: SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television & Radio Artists)
David C. Farmer, President Hawaii Local
Brenda Ching, Executive Director Hawaii Local

RE: **SB 1 - Relating to Equal Rights**

The attached is our testimony in support of Marriage Equality. Thank you.

Aloha.

Brenda Ching, Executive Director
brenda.ching@sagaftra.org • SAGAFTRA.org • 808-596-0388 (P) • 800-305-8146 (F)
SCREEN ACTORS GUILD - AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TELEVISION AND RADIO ARTISTS
949 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 105, Honolulu, HI 96814
Associated Actors & Artistes of America / AFL-CIO

October 22, 2013

The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers, State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Governor Abercrombie,

As the Hawaii legislature reconvenes to address marriage equality, we are writing on behalf of the members of the SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local to let you know we strongly support the rights of same-sex couples to wed in our state.

Being legally married means everyone is treated the same and allows same-sex couples access to benefits currently enjoyed only by opposite-sex couples. It also sends a strong message of support to young people in our state struggling to live open and authentic lives, but who face harassment and stigma largely because current law is written to discriminate against them.

The members of our Hawaii Local may fall on both sides of the political aisle, but the one thing our great union agrees on is marriage equality. As professional performers whose livings are made based on productions that come to the islands, we also know that marriage equality and non-discrimination policies simply make good business sense.

In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark ruling striking down the federal Defense of Marriage Act, members of the SAG-AFTRA Hawaii Local respectfully ask you to fulfill the true spirit of aloha and ensure that Hawaii stands on the right side of history by enacting in favor of marriage equality.

Aloha,

David C. Farmer
President Hawaii Local

Brenda Ching
Executive Director Hawaii Local

cc: Hawaii State Legislature

Brenda Ching, Executive Director Hawaii Local
brenda.ching@sagaftra.org • SAGAFTRA.org • 808.596.0388 (P) / 800.305.8146 (F)
SCREEN ACTORS GUILD - AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TELEVISION AND RADIO ARTISTS (SAG-AFTRA)
949 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 105, Honolulu, HI 96814

From: darci
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB 1 Testimony
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:49:04 AM

October 25, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SB 1
Date: Monday, October 28, 2013
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Place: State Capitol Auditorium, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro and Respected Committee Members:

The faith of Christian opponents to same-sex marriage is being challenged in a number of ways by their own doing. For what is asked, will be answered, and what many of us seek, no matter what our religious affiliation or non affiliation, is the opportunity to cultivate peace and eternal happiness. Sadly, in our quest for peace and eternal happiness, who we think we are is treasured like gold over what we really are. So, when others are trespassing on our prized possession, emotions like anger, hate and disgust envelope the silence of our minds and hearts, the silence where we are able to see and hear God.

Anger, hate, and disgust-these are emotional cues that a blessing is at hand for spiritual growth, but in order to receive that blessing, which can be said to be presented either by God, a Higher Power or the Universe, one must first recognize the opportunity. Dealing with difficult situations is never easy, yet it can be the most beneficial if we have the courage to face them head on without fear. Unfortunately, these emotional cues can make one blind and

deaf when the opportunity presents itself, such as is the case with the Christian opposition. Their weapon of choice is the Holy Bible, yet they fail considerably when it comes to following the commands of the very teacher upon which Christianity was founded, Jesus Christ, who spoke of justice, acceptance, and unconditional love. In their fight to preserve the sanctity of marriage, their emotions have blinded them and made them turn a deaf ear to these sacred commands. As a result, without eyes to see or an ear to hear, the blessing, the answer to their prayers, go unheeded; and unaware of the blessing at hand, they continue their merciless, judgmental trek, in the name of their God, to persecute the lowly- same-sex couples and their children- who seek equal treatment and protection under the law.

For justice and liberty for all citizens, I respectfully ask that you do what is fair and honorable and pass SB 1.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha,
Darcianne Ernce
Kailua, HI

From:	Suzy Brown
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Equality is about fairness, not a popularity contest!
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 9:25:07 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My partner and I had to fly to CA to get married in July so she could immigrate to the US and stay with me. This was an expensive burden that is not imposed on heterosexual couples. We are grateful that the US Federal Government now recognizes same-sex marriages (per the US Supreme Court decision in June of this year). This paved the way for my Swiss partner to stay with me on Kauai and begin building a life together. Our marriage is recognized by the State of California and the US Federal Government, but not by Hawaii, our home state. This impacts us in every way imaginable. When we buy a house in Hawaii, are we married? When we apply for health insurance, are we married? What about taxes? Do we file a joint federal return but separately for state taxes? Think of all the ways the State of Hawaii treats married couples versus singles. Why should we be treated any differently than other married couples? Give me one good reason! Don't tell me it's because your God says so, because the Truth is my God made me this way! To love is the most natural thing we do as humans. My love is no less than anyone else's. My marriage should be treated no less than others. Even if you have our own religious issues on this subject, this decision must NOT be based on your religious views! Separation of church and state is fundamental in our government and our laws and I expect our elected officials to uphold these basic tenants of our constitution and vote for equality.

Elected leaders should be focused on equality for all, not religious arguments or a majority popular vote. I'm 49 years old now and grew up with religion being used as the excuse for why I would never be able to get married. So, I'm really tired of religion being used to discriminate against a me...something that has been done to minorities throughout US history! Religion was argued to keep women from having the right to vote, then blacks, now gays. I'm also tired of waiting for the majority to vote in favor of a minority. Equality is not something you put to a popular vote. It's about fairness, not a popularity contest!

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Suzy Brown
Anahola, Kauai

Suzy Brown
PO Box 571
ANAHOLA, HI 96703

From: Robert Marks
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony on SB 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:19:51 PM

I support marriage equality

Robert Marks

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Hee, Chair; Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Senator Mike Gabbard, Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Senator Sam Slom, Senator Malama Solomon

HEARING DATE & TIME: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. PLACE: Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1 – EQUAL RIGHTS

I will not testify in person.

I have communicated with the Hawaii Senators and Representatives over the summer several times with many of the reasons from Hawaii to provide marriage equality, including the federal tax decision, marriage benefits for military couples, the outcomes for children of same-sex parenting families, and the recent New Jersey court decision.

Then my late husband (we were married in Canada), Bill Woods, started working on this issue in 1989, resulting in the initial suit in 1991, it was to accomplish many of the things that come with marriage equality, eliminating the discriminations that existed.

Over the past decade, many have worked hard to gain non-discrimination in public housing, public accommodations, and employment. It is important these protections be maintained as Hawaii proceeds with the step of making federal benefits and responsibilities available to ALL Hawaii citizens wishing to enter into a recognized marriage.

I support the current version of SB1 as written, which maintains the principle of religion not mandating politics, and politics not mandating religion.

Lance Bateman
3070 Holua Place
Honolulu, HI 96819
Daytime phone: 808-372-5323

From: Lila Sherman
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: *****SPAM***** SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:17:24 PM

I'm sending this testimony in support of the equal rights for ALL! For equality for ALL! The fact that some people, or religions, are uncomfortable with other's choices – does not mean their choices should be discriminated against!

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

I am a long-term resident of Hawaii, having moved here in 1968 to take a position as faculty member in the psychology department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. For the past 37 years I have been in a committed relationship with my partner, who was born and raised in Honolulu. We are recognized and treated as a married couple by friends, colleagues, and family. When I retired, we registered as domestic partners, and many state benefits have been afforded us under the civil union provisions. However, we are not eligible for the 1,138 federal benefits offered to married couples because of the State's failure to allow us to formally enter into marriage, even though individuals who have entered into same-sex marriage in other states are now able to claim such benefits.

Marriage has been established as a fundamental civil right in a number of court cases, beginning with those dealing with marriage between individuals of different races and implied in the recent Supreme Court decision striking down the Defense of Marriage Act. Therefore, it would seem the State needs to show some compelling reason to limit marriage to opposite-sex couples. The recent television commercial opposing same-sex marriage in Hawaii argues that such action would result in "damaging our people," but it is not clear in what way this damage would occur. The American Psychological Association, of which I am a member, has concluded that there is no scientific basis for denying marriage rights to same-sex couples, in terms either of the effects on the same-sex partners themselves or on their children.

State civil rights laws forbid discrimination along a number of dimensions, including sexual orientation. Failure to extend the right to marriage to same-sex couples would seem to be in direct violation of this precept, since it discriminates against gay couples with respect to a fundamental civil right.

I am respectful of the right of religious groups to define "holy matrimony," but this should have no impact on the right of the legislature to establish the legal definition of marriage for governmental purposes. I strongly support the passage of SB 1.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karl A. Minke

October 26, 2013

TO: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard
Senator Brickward Galutaria
Senator Les Ihara, Jr.
Senator Malama Solomon
Senator Sam Slom

October 28, 2013 10:30 Room Auditorium

FROM: Stephanie W. Batzer

RE: SB 1: Relating to Equal Rights - Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013- **SUPPORT**

Senator Hee, Chair, Senator Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, my name is Stephanie Batzer. I am a retiree from the U.S. Army, Court Appointed Special Advocate, JD candidate at the William S. Richardson School of Law, MSW, and a member of the National Association of Social Workers legislative committee. I have had the great fortune to travel and live across the globe during the course of my adult life, finally settling in this great state for the past 15 years.

Two of my five cousins are gay. The older of the two has been in a committed relationship for the past 20+ years. However, they have lived in states where marriage between members of the same sex is not legal. Each time they have moved, they have had to keep painstaking track of powers of attorney, living wills, and other legal documents. A number of companies have not had liberal partner benefits programs, so they had to set up separate wills and living trusts. I feel in the deepest recesses of my heart that this is simply wrong.

In my time in service, I had the pleasure of working along side many different people, including those who identified themselves as part of the LGBTIQQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and questioning) community. They were not allowed, under Don't Ask, Don't Tell, to publicly identify themselves and then serve. Once we abolished DADT, these service members were then denied their rights to have their partnerships, and marriages, acknowledged and treated equally as it pertains to rights and benefits. Our military is slowly coming around to acknowledge and grant these rights. Hawai'i needs to follow suit. The Land of Aloha needs to make certain that its love and grace do not exclude a good portion of our population.

I echo some of the American Psychoanalytic Association's reasoning in my very strong support of this bill:

- Discrimination frays the human spirit.
- Making committed human connections is good for physical and mental health.
- Forming families, traditional or not, is good for the soul.

- Marriage is a basic human right and an individual personal choice and the State should not interfere with same-gender couples who choose to marry.
- Homosexuality is a normal variant of adult sexuality; gay men and lesbians possess the same potential and desire for sustained loving and lasting relationships as heterosexuals, including loving and parenting children. This is supported by hard data, not just opinion.
- Discriminatory marriage laws deprive gay and lesbian couples of over 1000 federal rights and benefits
- Deprivation of these benefits has demonstrable negative psychological and social impact on same sex couples, their children and families.
- Change and adaptation make for a stronger and psychologically richer society
- Same sex couples can teach heterosexual couples how couples in relationships lacking gender based power dynamics often solve problems and make decisions with more respect and mutuality.
- Ending discrimination enhances the human spirit and makes all our lives better. Continuing education increases the knowledge base and competency levels of social work professionals.

I believe in the Spirit of Aloha that is the very core of our society here. I believe that discriminating against same sex marriage completely goes against the very core values of humanity. I believe that we all deserve the rights of marriage, regardless of gender. I ask you to continue to foster that spirit, and to extend that welcome to the LGBTIQQ community.

I urge your favorable consideration of SB 1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
October 28, 2013

Hearing on Senate Bill 1
Relating to Equal Rights

Statement of Douglas Laycock, Thomas C. Berg, Bruce Ledewitz, Christopher C. Lund, and Michael J. Perry
(not appearing in person)

We write in support of same-sex marriage and in support of religious liberty. Senate Bill 1 should be amended to include far more robust protections for religious liberty. Then the bill should be passed. Only in that way will the legislature protect the liberty of all Hawaiians—both same-sex couples and religious conscientious objectors.

The signers of this testimony have devoted much of their careers to studying, teaching, and writing about the law of religious liberty in general, and the religious liberty issues arising from same-sex marriage in particular. One of us is co-editor of the leading book on the subject, *Same-Sex Marriage and Religious Liberty: Emerging Conflicts* (Rowman & Littlefield 2008) (Douglas Laycock, Anthony R. Picarello, & Robin Fretwell Wilson, eds.). Each of us is employed by a public or private university, but of course our universities take no position on the issues before the Committee. We testify in our personal capacity as scholars. We provide more information about ourselves at the end of this Statement.

We support same-sex marriage. We think that Senate Bill 1 can be a great advance for human liberty. But careless or overly aggressive drafting could create a whole new set of problems for the religious liberty of those religious believers who cannot conscientiously participate in implementing the new regime. The gain for human liberty will be severely compromised if same-sex couples now force religious dissenters to violate their conscience in the same way that those dissenters, when they had the power to do so, used to force same-sex couples to hide their sexuality. Conservative religious believers should not be allowed to veto same-sex marriage for those who want it, but neither should they

be forced to directly facilitate it in violation of their understanding of God's will.

Same-sex couples and traditional religious believers should not be at war with one another. Members of each group seek to protect a core part of their identity from interference by the state. Each seeks to manifest that identity in public practice, not confined to mere belief or orientation. Each is misunderstood and vilified by its opponents—far too often, each group vilifies the other. Each deserves legal protection for its deepest commitments.

It is important to keep in mind that marriage is both a legal relationship and a religious relationship. The profound religious significance of marriage means that many religious organizations and individual believers experience marriage equality as reaching deep into a fundamentally religious institution. The challenge for any bill is to equalize civil marriage while preserving religious control over religious marriage. Senate Bill 1 has not yet accomplished the task.

The religious exemptions in the current draft of Senate Bill 1 address only a small part of the problem. Existing religious exemptions in Hawaii civil rights laws fill another small part of the gap. But many issues remain to be addressed.

I. Religious Organizations

The proposed sections 572-E and 572-F of the Revised Statutes (created by § 2 of Senate Bill 1) protect the refusal to solemnize a marriage and the refusal to provide physical facilities for the solemnization of a marriage. Section 572-F appears to distinguish "solemnization" from "celebration," and to protect only with respect to "solemnization." That is, these sections do not even protect churches from having to host the wedding reception.

The issue of solemnization is important, but it is only the most obvious part of the issue for religious organizations. A bill that addresses only solemnization would do less to protect religious liberty than any other state that has enacted same-sex marriage by legislation. Equally important, and far more likely to be litigated, is the issue of *recognition* of same-sex marriages by religious organizations for purposes of carrying out their religious missions.

A religious organization, in the course of carrying out its religious mission, cannot in good conscience treat as married two persons whose relationship fundamentally violates the religious organization's understanding of marriage. Must the pastor provide pastoral counseling for a same-sex married couple? Must a church employ spouses in same-sex marriages—spouses that are publicly defying the church's teaching on marriage? A religious-liberty provision addressed only to solemnization neglects these and many similar issues.

II. Individuals

Senate Bill 1 provides no protection for individuals who provide services to help celebrate weddings or professional services to help sustain marriages. This omission threatens serious harm to a religious minority while conferring no real benefits on same-sex couples. Same-sex couples will rarely if ever actually want such personalized services from providers who fundamentally disapprove of their relationship, and they will nearly always be able to readily obtain these services from others who are happy to serve them.

It is one thing to say that a substantial business, with numerous employees to serve its customers, should serve all comers. It is quite another thing to say that an individual, or a very small business that is essentially an extension of an individual owner who is deeply involved in serving every customer, should have to provide personal services in violation of conscience. The few such owners who object typically believe marriage to be a fundamentally religious relationship, and believe facilitating a same-sex marriage to be a profound personal sin with respect to a religious matter.

It is not in the interest of the gay and lesbian community to create religious martyrs when enforcing the right to same-sex marriage. To impose legal penalties or civil liabilities on a wedding planner who refuses to do a same-sex wedding, or on an individual marriage counselor who refuses to provide marriage counseling to same-sex couples, will simply ensure that conservative religious opinion on this issue can repeatedly be aroused to fever pitch. Every such case will be in the news

repeatedly, and every such story will further inflame the opponents of same-sex marriage. Refusing exemptions to such religious dissenters will politically empower the least reconcilable opponents of same-sex marriage. It will ensure that the issue remains alive, bitter, and deeply divisive.

It is far better to respect the liberty of both sides and let same-sex marriage be implemented with a minimum of confrontation. Let the people of Hawaii see happy, loving, committed same-sex marriages in their midst; let them see (this cannot be helped) that some of those marriages fail, just as many opposite-sex marriages fail; let them see that these same-sex marriages, good and bad, have no effect on opposite-sex marriages. Let the market respond to the obvious economic incentives; same-sex couples will pay good money just like opposite-sex couples. Let same-sex marriage become familiar to the people, and do these things without oppressing religious dissenters in the process. Same-sex marriage will be backed by law, backed by the state, and backed by a large and growing number of private institutions. The number of dissenters will continue to decline, as minds continue to change and as others acquiesce in the new circumstances and in the live-and-let-live traditions of the American people. The number of individuals in business or professional settings who assert their right to conscientious objection will be small in the beginning, and it will plunge still further over time if deprived of the chance to rally around a series of martyrs.

Exemptions for religious conscientious objectors will rarely burden same-sex couples. Few same-sex couples in Hawaii will have to go far to find merchants, professionals, counseling agencies, or any other desired service providers who will cheerfully meet their needs and wants. And same-sex couples will generally be far happier working with a provider who contentedly desires to serve them than with one who believes them to be engaged in mortal sin, and who grudgingly serves them only because of the coercive power of the law. Statutory drafting can provide for the rare cases where these suppositions are not true, such as a same-sex couple on one of the smaller islands that may have reasonably convenient access to only one provider of some secular service. Such cases are no reason to withhold religious

exemptions in the more urban areas where most of the people—and most of the same-sex couples—actually live.

III. Proposed Statutory Language

Another group of scholars, led Professor Edward McGlynn Gaffney, has also submitted testimony. That group includes supporters, opponents, and undecideds on the issue of same-sex marriage. Those of us joining in this statement wanted to be free to emphasize our support for same-sex marriage, so we are testifying separately. Both groups—the supporters, the opponents, and the undecideds—are agreed on the need for more complete religious exemptions.

The Gaffney group's analysis of potential legal conflicts is accurate. Its survey of what other states have enacted is accurate. And it offers carefully drafted statutory language to reconcile same-sex marriage with religious liberty. This statutory language has been refined over the years in light of debates in other states. It anticipates the range of issues likely to arise and addresses them with care, balance, and attention to the essential rights and needs of both same-sex couples and religious conscientious objectors. It should be added to Senate Bill 1, as a substitute for proposed sections 572-E and 572-F.

The Gaffney group's language would protect only religious organizations, religious individuals, and very small businesses that are essentially personal extensions of the individual owner. It would protect individuals and businesses only when some other business is reasonably available to provide the same service. It would not prevent even one same-sex marriage; it would not make same-sex marriages difficult to celebrate or sustain. But it would protect religious liberty—also a constitutional interest and one that is equally important.

At the very least, any bill on same-sex marriage should protect decisions about "recognition" as well as decisions about "solemnization." Proposed section 572-E could be amended as follows:

572-E. Refusal to solemnize <u>or recognize</u> a marriage. ~~Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require any~~

> Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, no clergy, minister, priest, rabbi, officer of any religious denomination or society, ~~or~~ and no denomination, religious society, or religiously affiliated not-for-profit organization ~~not having clergy but providing solemnizations that is authorized to perform solemnizations pursuant to this chapter~~ shall be required to solemnize or recognize any marriage. No such person who fails or refuses to solemnize or recognize any marriage under this section for any reason shall be subject to any fine, penalty, injunction, administrative proceeding, or other civil liability for the failure or refusal.

The more carefully drafted language in the Gaffney group's testimony would be better for both sides—more protective of religious objectors in some ways, more protective of same-sex couples in other ways. It is more protective of both sides because it more carefully attends to the interests of both sides. That language would be the better solution. But if the Senate chooses to work within the structure of the current bill, the amendments just suggested to section 572-E would be a reasonably workable solution and far better than nothing.

IV. Constitutionality

Some legislators have expressed concern that religious exemptions may be unconstitutional. There is no basis for such a fear.

The emerging law of sexual orientation and same-sex marriage is that *government* may not discriminate against same-sex couples. Nothing in that body of law suggests that government may not also protect religious liberty. The Supreme Court has repeatedly, and unanimously, upheld religious exemptions from regulation against constitutional attack. The most recent example is *Cutter v. Wilkinson*,[1] unanimously upholding the religious exemptions for prisoners required by the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act.[2]

[1] 544 U.S. 709 (2005).
[2] 42 U.S.C. § 2000cc *et seq.* (2006).

More directly relevant here, *Corporation of the Presiding Bishop v. Amos*[3] unanimously upheld a religious exemption from the discrimination laws that lets religious organizations hire and fire on the basis of religion. The Court rejected both an Establishment Clause attack[4] *and* an equal protection attack.[5] "This Court has long recognized that the government may (and sometimes must) accommodate religious practices,"[6] the Court said, and government is free to do so when it acts "with the proper purpose of lifting a regulation that burdens the exercise of religion."[7] The Court's point about legislative purpose is important; the purpose of including religious exemptions is to protect religious liberty. There is no purpose to harm same-sex couples who are granted the right to marry in the same bill. So nothing in the Court's gay-rights cases[8] changes its analysis of religious exemptions to protect the rights of conscience.

An exemption may be unconstitutional if there is no burden on religious exercise to be relieved, or if it imposes significant burdens on third parties. But as *Amos* shows, mere loss of access to employment or other affirmative benefits from a religious organization is not a cognizable burden on others. The regulatory exemptions we have proposed leave same-sex couples free to live their lives without imposing on religious organizations or believers, and leave religious organizations and believers free to live according to their faith by steering clear of same-sex couples, neither affirmatively facilitating their marriages nor affirmatively imposing any burdens on them. The language in the Gaffney group's testimony is carefully drafted to avoid burdens on same-sex couples.

All nine Justices approved of legislative religious exemptions in separate opinions in *Board of Education v. Grumet*,[9] and in

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[3] 483 U.S. 327 (1987).

[4] *Id.* at 334-39.

[5] *Id.* at 338-39.

[6] *Id.* at 334.

[7] *Id.* at 338.

[8] United States v. Windsor, 133 S. Ct. 2675 (2013); Lawrence v. Texas, 539 U.S. 558 (2003); Romer v. Evans, 517 U.S. 620 (1996).

[9] 512 U.S. 687, 705 (1994) (stating that "the Constitution allows the state to accommodate religious needs by alleviating special burdens;" reaffirming

Employment Division v. Smith.[10] And in a case that struck down an exemption because the Court thought there was no burden on religious exercise to be relieved, eight Justices in separate opinions explicitly reaffirmed *Amos*, and the ninth (Justice White) had written the opinion in *Amos*.[11] The Senate would act in the highest constitutional and civil liberties tradition if it authorized same-sex marriage and simultaneously protected religious liberty with respect to those marriages.

V. Conclusion

Enacting the right to same-sex marriage with generous exemptions for religious dissenters is the right thing to do. It respects the right of conscience for all sides. It protects the sexual liberty of same-sex couples and the religious liberty of religious dissenters. It is obviously better for the traditional religious believers; because it creates no martyrs and reduces civil conflict, it is also better for the same-sex couples. Because it is better for both sides, it is better for Hawaii. The language proposed in the Gaffney group's testimony would protect the liberty of both sides. We urge you to add it to Senate Bill 1 or to any other bill on same-sex marriage.

Amos); *id.* at 711-12 (Stevens, J., concurring) (distinguishing the facts of *Grumet* from "a decision to grant an exemption from a burdensome general rule"); *id.* at 716 (O'Connor, J., concurring) ("The Constitution permits '*nondiscriminatory* religious-practice exemption[s]"' (quoting *Employment Division v. Smith*, 494 U.S. 872, 890 (1990) (emphasis by Justice O'Connor, meaning that exemptions cannot discriminate among faiths)); *id.* at 723-24 (Kennedy, J., concurring) (approving *Amos* and similar cases); *id.* at 744 (Scalia, J., dissenting) ("The Court has ... long acknowledged the permissibility of legislative accommodation.").

[10] 494 U.S. 872, 890 (1990) ("a nondiscriminatory religious-practice exemption is permitted"); *id.* at 893-97 (O'Connor, J., dissenting) (arguing that regulatory exemptions are not only permitted, but also constitutionally required).

[11] *See* Texas Monthly, Inc. v. Bullock, 489 U.S. 1, 18 n.8 (plurality opinion) (approving *Amos*); *id.* at 28 (Blackmun, J., concurring) (approving *Amos*); *id.* at 38-40 (Scalia, J., dissenting) (arguing that regulatory and tax exemptions are generally permitted and sometimes required). Justice White's brief concurrence said nothing about the exemption issue one way or the other. *See id.* at 25-26 (White, J., concurring).

At the very least, the bill should protect "recognition" of marriages, and not just "solemnization" of marriages.

Each of us signs this letter in our individual capacities; none of our employers takes a position on the issues we address. We are available to discuss these issues further if that would be of any benefit. Each of our e-mail addresses is in the Appendix.

Appendix

Douglas Laycock is the Robert E. Scott Distinguished Professor of Law and Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. He is also the Alice McKean Young Regents Chair in Law Emeritus at the University of Texas. He may be reached at dlaycock@virginia.edu.

Thomas C. Berg is the James Oberstar Professor of Law and Public Policy at the University of St. Thomas (Minnesota). He may be reached at tcberg@stthomas.edu.

Bruce S. Ledewitz is Professor of Law at Duquesne University. He may be reached at ledewitz@duq.edu.

Christopher C. Lund is Associate Professor of Law at Wayne State University. He may be reached at lund@wayne.edu.

Michael J. Perry is the Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law at Emory University. He may be reached at mjperry@emory.edu.

From:	Chad Marshall
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 6:28:47 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My husband, Michael Looney, and I, are legally married in Washington State. We have been together in our hearts, minds and bodies as a committed married couple, since 2002. When Washington State passed a Marriage Equality Bill earlier this year, we made it official in the presence of family and friends, and legally married. We moved to Maui in June of this year, excited to experience a life of paradise and Aloha. When Michael went to get his Hawaii ID card, he listed me as an emergency contact. When the woman at the desk asked who I was, Michael stated, "My Husband." She promptly replied, "Not here is isn't." This is not the spirit of Aloha we imagined.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Chad Marshall
480 Kenolio Rd
APT 22-205
Kihei, HI 96753

Hawai'i Peace & Justice
Nāpua Hō'ala i ka Pono -The Flowers Awaken in Peace and Justice

2426 O'ahu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
808.988.6266
info@hawaiipeaceandjustice.org
hawaiipeaceandjustice.org

SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

Date: October 26, 2013

To: Senator Hee, Chair, Senator Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor (Monday, October 28, 2013)

From: Kyle Kajihiro, on behalf of Hawai'i Peace and Justice *(formerly the American Friends Service Committee Hawai'i Program)*

Subject: STRONG SUPPORT for SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on a very historic bill that when it passes, will help to undo a major structural source of discrimination and oppression in Hawai'i.

For many years, Hawai'i Peace and Justice and its predecessor the American Friends Service Committee Hawai'i Area Program has spoken out in support of the right of same-sex couples to enjoy the same legal rights and benefits of marriage that heterosexual couples do.

Today, we heartily support this bill to undo the legal system of marital apartheid that has existed in Hawai'i and in the U.S. Marriage equality for same-sex couples will improve the quality of life for thousands of our family members, friends, and neighbors who do not currently have their committed relationships recognized by the law of Hawai'i.

At the same time we understand that this bill does not end homophobia or anti-gay oppression. But this law, when it passes, will remove an important legal impediment to legal protection for same-sex relationships, and it will be an important step in our process as a society to unlearn dehumanizing ideologies and undo oppressive structures.

We thank you for your willingness to take up this challenge, to hear the bill that will mark a historic turning point in our islands. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: rstotzer@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:40:42 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Rebecca Stotzer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Rebecca Stotzer and I live in House District 23 and Senate District 11 in Manoa. I am writing to urge legislators to pass marriage equality in the State of Hawaii. As an Associate Professor at UH Manoa who studies issues related to our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, and intersex (LGBTQI) communities, I can say without reservation that same-sex marriage has been found to be beneficial. It is beneficial for the same-partners and their children, as well heterosexual partners and their children, as this type of law sends a message of valuing diversity. Passing marriage equality increased religious freedom by allowing churches who wish to marry same-sex couples to have their ceremonies recognized under the law. We also know that states that recognize marriage equality also boosts to their economy in both marriage tourism and encouraging the "creative class" (both straight allies and LGBTQI people) to stay and create businesses and new industry. Although some mistakenly believe the misinformation spread by people with poor research skills and even worse reputations, some of whom have been brought from the mainland to testify in person, all the truly well-designed research has shown again and again the valuing LBGTQI and protecting their rights reap nothing but benefits for everyone involved. So please, I urge you to pass marriage equality to strengthen the State of Hawaii and help fulfill the promise of aloha. Rebecca Stotzer

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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HAWAII'S MARRIAGE EQUALITY BILL

Testimony Of Guy T. Nakatani (Deceased)
Offered By Al and Jane Nakatani
Co-Founders Honor Thy Children, Inc.
22 Puuaina Place
Kahului, HI 96732
October 28, 2013

To the distinguished members of the Hawaii State Legislature, we thank you for the opportunity to have this testimony read before you. Before reading this testimony, Al and Jane Nakatani wishes you to know that in this matter, they simply serve as proxies for their deceased son Guy Nakatani. In essence this is the testimony of Guy Nakatani who died in February 1994, at the age of 26, from complications of HIV/AIDS. The testimony reads as follows:

I first sensed being different when I was 5 years old. I remember having warmer feelings toward my uncles rather than my aunties. When I experienced "crushes" it was for a boy, not a girl. At first, I didn't think there was anything wrong about how I felt or was as a person. But soon I began to hear and learn that there was something terribly wrong with someone like me. Over time I would learn that I was a sissy, a fag, a queer, a deviant, an abomination, a sinner, someone horribly abnormal. There were a few times that other kids sensed something different about me and would tease and bully me for being a sissy or whatever. My Mom and Dad never referred to me in those terms, but every so often I would hear them make jokes and laugh at others like me, and I quickly learned that if they knew about me, I would be risking their favor, if not their love altogether. But what Mom and Dad did say to all us boys, was "to never bring shame and dishonor to the Nakatani name" and it did not take me long to understand that by being and admitting I was Gay, I would indeed bring shame and dishonor to our family. By the time I entered adolescence I was so troubled by my "gayness" that I did everything I could to become straight, even to having sex with girls. On the outside I appeared to be happy and well adjusted, but inside I was so confused, frightened, ashamed, feeling alone and hopeless, and having no one or no place to go for help. There were so many nights, alone in the darkness of my room that I cried myself to sleep. Soon I found myself entering the gay world totally immature and unprepared to deal with a broken community of people who themselves were struggling to live a life, a life not always within the context of health and wellness. When I was 15 years old I was sexually brutalized by a stranger at least 10 years older than I. Life after that was a downward spiral and only my closest friend knew how I was living. At age 20 I learned I was HIV positive and remember feeling that after I died, Mom and Dad will have no one.....and who will look after them when they are unable to care for themselves. I had indeed brought shame, dishonor and disgrace to our family. For the next 5 years I did whatever I could to

salvage whatever was salvageable for Mom and Dad. I worked at Nordstrom until I could no longer work and for the remaining 2 years of my life I became an HIV/AIDS educator talking to as many children and youth in the schools that would allow me to do so. When I died, I was but a shell of myself, seemingly a fitting end, as I indeed brought dishonor and anguish to Mom and Dad.

But that was then, and this is now. I wish I can be 5 years old again. I know I would still be Gay, but perhaps today, I would be more accepting and loved as a child growing up Gay. Perhaps whenever bullied there would be others who would come to my assistance. Perhaps I could look forward to the time when educational institutions will teach all of us that all forms of sexual orientation and gender identity is normal; a reflection of our human diversity. Perhaps those of faith who believe in unconditional love will be better able to stand up to those people of faith who continue to define someone like me as an abomination. Perhaps my own Japanese American Community would be more accepting of me and not insist on my being a source of shame to our culture. Today, my Mom and Dad have been transformed and I would be secure in sharing with them everything and anything about how I am evolving as a person. Perhaps the schools that I attend will have a Gay Straight Alliance Program which would provide me the opportunities to meet and gain the kind of friends that I would cherish throughout my life. And most importantly, today I will have more open opportunities to love someone who I may end up marrying.....that is, if we here in Hawaii, become a Marriage Equality State.

Mahalo for listening and hopefully "hearing" what I have shared today. May you find it in your hearts to vote Yes and pass the Marriage Equality Bill before you. For you see, "It Is More Than Just About Marriage Equality, It Is About Giving Hopes and Dreams To Children Growing Up Diverse With Respect To Their Sexual Orientation And Gender Orientation"

Guy T. Nakatani

Headquarters

HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

1727 PALI HIGHWAY / HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 / PH: 522-9200 / FAX: 522-9209

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii is the largest Buddhist denomination in Hawaii and we have provided spiritual guidance for nearly 125 years. Our Shin Buddhist teaching provides guidance on how to live mindfully with an awareness of universal compassion which embraces and uplifts all people equally without exception. We dedicate our lives to nurturing compassion and we work daily to promote social justice for all people. We believe that the issue of marriage equality is one of basic civil rights and that it is morally just to provide equal rights and responsibilities to loving, committed same-gender couples.

In 2010, the governing body of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii adopted a resolution supporting equal rights for same-gender couples because we believe that the freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. According to our teachings, gender is not what is important, but rather the commitment and respect that all people, regardless of their gender, brings to their relationship that is most essential.

We believe that religious freedom is adequately protected in this bill. It is clear that no member of the clergy will be required to perform a wedding ceremony with which he or she disagrees. Some religious denominations will perform marriages for same-gender couples, and some will not, just as some houses of worship perform interfaith marriages and some will not. This bill does not change that. This protection applies to all religious institutions regardless of how they are organized or where they worship. Again, it is clergy who will always get to decide which weddings they will officiate. Our ministers would welcome the opportunity to perform weddings for same-gender couples as it affirms our spiritual values.

We humbly ask for your support for same-gender couples having the right to marry as a step towards ensuring that everyone in our society is treated equally and with compassion.

With gratitude,

Rev. Blayne Higa
Chair
Committee on Social Concerns
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Musicians' Association of Hawaii

LOCAL No. 677, American Federation of Musicians

BRIEN MATSON
President

JAMES F. MOFFITT
Vice President

STEPHEN DINION
Secretary-Treasurer

October 28, 2013
RE: S.B. No 1

To All Concerned:

The Musicians' Association of Hawaii, Local 677 stands in support of S.B. NO. 1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

As a labor union we have always stood fast with our fellow Unions in the fight for equal rights for those in the workplace, and we stand with the AFL-CIO, the AFM, and a large number of local unions here in Hawaii, in support of marriage for all people who wish to marry, not "some of the people."

Because LGBT couples are not allowed to legally marry in this state, they are denied a large number of the same rights that opposite sex couples are entitled to, and this is a tragedy for the people denied these rights, as well as for the state of Hawaii, and our country.

We urge you to pass S.B. 1.

Sincerely,

Brien Matson
President

949 KAPIOLANI BOULEVARD HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814-2196 • PHONE (808) 596-2121 • FAX (808) 593-2526
AFM677@aol.com • www.livemusicbiz.com • www.musicianshawaii.com

October 28, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Testimony in Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Pride At Work Hawai'i, which advocates for full equality and inclusiveness – in our workplaces and our unions – for LGBT workers and our families, testifies in strong support of marriage equality legislation. We stand united with our brothers and sisters in the labor movement both locally and nationally on this important issue of economic and social justice.

Now that Section 3 of DOMA has been repealed by the Supreme Court, the State of Hawai'i's non-recognition of same-sex relationships as marriage deprives thousands of families of the most important attributes of their labor: the ability to provide for themselves and their families. There are more than 1,100 rights and protections under federal law to which only married couples are entitled. Many, such as Social Security benefits and family medical leave, derive from an individual's employment status.

While opponents of working people's interests try to use marriage as a wedge issue to divide our strength, at the heart of labor's support for LGBT equality is the belief that "an injury to one is an injury to all." As Joe Hansen, President of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, said, "Marriage equality is an economic justice issue, and a social justice issue – and that makes it a union issue."

Please pass this important bill.

Sincerely,

Tod Robertson
President

PO Box 22416 Honolulu, HI 96822 (808) 543-6054 prideatworkhi@gmail.com www.prideatworkhawaii.org

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: aranyadevi@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:55:52 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Ronja Giesser	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a resident of the State of Hawaii I wholeheartedly support the right of everyone to marry the person they love. Religious organizations may choose to define marriage according their own beliefs. This, however, according to the separation of church and state, should not influence the decision of the senate. Laws should reflect the needs of ALL citizens, not just a select few. Therefore the right and privilege to enter in marriage should be extended to all.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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WOMEN'S CAUCUS
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I

October 28, 2013

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair and
Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Jeanne Ohta, Amy Monk, Co-Chairs
Hawai‘i State Democratic Women’s Caucus

Re: SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
(10:30 a.m., Monday, October 28, 2013, Auditorium)

Position: STRONG SUPPORT

Thank you for hearing this bill and for allowing us to present testimony today, in strong support of SB 1 which recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex and extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive.

The Hawai‘i State Democratic Women’s Caucus is a catalyst for progressive, social, economic, and political change through action on critical issues facing Hawai‘i’s women and girls. It is because of this mission, the Caucus strongly supports this measure which extends the rights and benefits of marriage to same-sex couples.

Establishing marriage equality is a big step to ending the disparity between the rights of opposite-sex married couples and those of same-sex couples. It is a step toward the goal of treating people equally under the law, as required by our Constitution.

Although Hawai‘i enacted a civil unions measure, same-sex families still do not receive the federal benefits that opposite-sex families do. In order for same-sex families in Hawai‘i to file federal income taxes, Hawai‘i must enact a same-sex marriage law. Enacting this measure will help end this unequal treatment by government agencies and employers.

We urge the committee to pass SB 1 with as narrow a religious exemption as possible and we urge the committee to ensure that our public accommodations law is not weakened. We should not let selected members of the clergy dictate to the government the legal definition of marriage and churches should not be allowed to subvert the public accommodations provisions.

We thank the committee for the opportunity to testify on this important measure. Please vote to pass SB1.

Hawai‘i State Democratic Women’s Caucus, 404 Ward Avenue Suite 200, Honolulu, HI 96814
hidemwomen@gmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: crismhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:20:02 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Christine McGowan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support marriage equality. I support SB1. I think anything else is a mockery of justice and human rights.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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October 28, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Testimony in support of SB1, Relating to Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

The Supreme Court and the Federal government have upheld my fundamental right to marry and access benefits afforded to heterosexual couples by overturning section 3 of DOMA. It is Hawaii's turn to ignore opponents who would discriminate against me by denying me the full right to marry the person I love and deny all the privileges that come with that. It is time for Hawaii to join those states that have passed marriage equality legislation and end this discrimination.

I am a law abiding, tax paying American citizen that should be entitled to the same rights and benefits of every other American citizen. I was born in this state and should be allowed to marry and have it recognized in this state. I have always prided myself on the fact that Hawaii is culturally diverse, been accepting of all ethnic backgrounds, have a strong sense of family and community and is known as the melting pot of the pacific. I am disappointed with our reputation of being the "Aloha" state that we were not one of the initial states recognizing same sex marriage. I encourage our Legislators to do the right thing and pass marriage equality now.

Thank you,
Jamilyn Makaehu

HONORABLE CHAIRPERSON CLAYTON HEE
HONORABLE VICE-CHAIRPERSON MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE FOR JUDICIARY & LABOR

STRONG SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 1, IN ITS PRESENT FORM, RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

Saturday, October 26, 2013

My name is Dan Abrahamsson and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 1 in its present form before this Committee.

In November 2000, my long time gay male partner of 24 years died of lung cancer. Until he was diagnosed with cancer, 16 months earlier, we lived a wonderful harmonious loving life together. Just like any heterosexual married couple, we enjoyed our relationship of love, planned for our future and for our retirement at old age.

However, there was a big difference at the end. We could not marry, or obtain the many benefits and privileges that heterosexual couples were given for a secured and protected future in old days, simply because we were a same-gender couple. When my partner died, the property and the assets we both had worked and saved so hard for were taxed much higher and differently than if we had had the opportunity to marry. Because my partner's relatives accepted our loving relationship, I was fortunate to be allowed to care for and visit my partner at the hospital during his illness. I was allowed to arrange his funeral according to his own wishes. I know of friends that did not have relatives who were as tolerant as ours. These friends were not allowed to care for or visit their partners, let alone to attend the funeral of their loved one.

The time has come to stop wallowing in antiquated dogmas and superstitions. Attempts to stop the Marriage Equality Bill have nothing to do with legality; they simply respond to uninformed public opinion as well as political and religious ambitions. Gays and lesbians are equal Hawaiian and American citizens and have a right to enjoy the same protection and privileges as anyone else in the Hawaiian and American societies.

From the bottom of my heart, I implore you to support the SB1 in its present form, which will provide gay and lesbian couples, and their families, with a good measure of equal legal rights and privileges when compared to those of married heterosexual couples.

Me ke aloha Pumehana,

Dan Abrahamsson
1607 Quincy Place
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808) 753-6287

From: Sachiko Taketa
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:35:03 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My family and I have faced injustices because of our racial background. Why should discrimination continue to survive in this day and age because of fear. Our children and the children of our children should have the freedom to marry the person they love. It is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Marriage is to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, aloha is touted. Our aloha for family and others is priority. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. Have we not learned from history? None of us would want to be told again that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sachiko Taketa
Ala Makahala Pl
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: Aaron Toman
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: My support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:38:45 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

As a citizen of Hawai'i I hope that my words will have an actual impact on your decision for this bill. I was raised in a family that was slightly homophobic, it was just a touchy subject with the family. But in the past couple years, I have became really good friends with a fellow classmate, who only after getting to know me, came out that he was gay. It had zero impact on our friendship, because it doesn't matter who you love; as long as you're a good person. Through him, my family has come to accept the gay community without problems. Even to admit to me that my great uncle had been gay, and slightly outcasted by the family. A fact that I had been hidden from for 19 years. That should not have had to be a secret. Times are changing and I'm hoping that you are on the right side of this battle.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Aaron Toman

Aaron Toman
2629 kapiolani Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: Adrya Siebring
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 12:19:04 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Adrya Siebring
5118 Iolani Place
Princeille, HI 96722

From: Alicia Carveiro
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:17:10 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My partner and I have been happily together for 13 years now. We have 6 children and 11 beautiful grandchildren. My family and I deserve equality in all aspects. We both work hard to support our family that we so dearly love, contribute to society and our communities.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Alicia Carveiro
P.O.Box 609
Hanapepe, HI 96716

From: Amanda Schaefer
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:01:45 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marriage for all, or marriage for none.

Amanda Schaefer
4393 Opana Pl.
Haiku, HI 96708

From: Amy Webb
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:17:19 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Amy Webb
30 Ohala Place
Kula, HI 96790

From: Ann Freed
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:11:28 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

This should not be a matter of debate or up for a vote (of the "people") as the Bill of Rights was created to protect minority rights from the tyranny of the majority.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ann Freed
95-227 Waikalani Dr. A403
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Anne Leete
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Please Pass SB1!!
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:32:00 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. As an attorney, I find it abhorrent that Hawaii's marriage laws do not apply equally to all of our citizens, and respectfully request that you pass SB1 to end the practice of institutionalized discrimination against same-sex couples.

My close friends and neighbors, Kevin and Mark, have been in a loving a committed relationship for a decade. For the last several years, Mark has cared for Kevin's Mother on a full time basis after she suffered a debilitating stroke. Their love and commitment to each other, and to each other's ohana, is truly incredible. Caring for a disabled elder is truly a labor of love. It is truly shocking that they are unable to obtain the same legal protections that my husband I have.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anne Leete
55 Eono Place
Haiku, HI 96708

From: Anrold Abe
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:30:23 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anrold Abe
35 Iliau Way
15-C
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Anstern Gouveia
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:42:58 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I am queer myself and for many years was depressed by the fact that I wouldn't be able to marry the person I love until I found out same sex partners do get married all the time and they have wonderful loving families of their own. The disappointing fact though is not all couples are treated as equals under the law. I have known too many couples who have been together for 20 years or more and one of the parter's passes away while the other one is devastated not only for losing the love of their life but for also losing everything else because they weren't recognized as lawfully wedded spouses by the state or federal government. Now the federal government recognizes same sex marriages as equals to opposite sex marriages.. it's the same thing it's just marriage.

Marriage Equality is not only about recognizing the love and commitment two people share but the recognition that gays and lesbians are equal members of society. This is an example to be set for the many LGBT youth coming out at earlier ages now that society is evolving on LGBT equality. I am looking forward to the day when kids growing up that identify as LGBT find they can express their love without so much hate, fear and shame being imposed upon them. That they can grow up with similar struggles that their straight counterparts grow up with, not more struggles imposed on them by society.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anstern Gouveia
234 Hanauana Rd.
Haiku, HI 96708

From:	Arthur Grau
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 10:53:22 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Arthur Grau
469 Ena Rd 3110
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Bahiyyih Smits
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:09:18 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bahiyyih Smits
820 10 the ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Barb Travis
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:03:28 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of Marriage Equality Act.

I strongly urge you to support the freedom to marry for same-sex couples; like all people, gay and lesbian couples want to marry because of love, commitment, and the desire to build a strong ohana. It is only fair and just that all people be given the opportunity to share in the freedom to marry, as well as all its rights and responsibilities.

I am a practicing Catholic, and as such, I find the attacks by my Church on this legislation both unfair and debasing. I believe in the Church's doctrine of "right conscience," which is rooted in Scripture, tradition, and Church teaching. Using these three guidelines, I have been convinced for many years, that GLB persons have the right to marry and raise a family if they choose. I am ashamed of the bias and homophobia being proclaimed by my Church, which at the same time, proclaims "social justice" as one of their basic principles.
Voting against this legislation is not an act of social justice but rather institutional prejudice. Marriage is a choice and a commitment that is not taken lightly by anyone, but in particular by GLB persons who have had to fight and suffer the prejudice of society for decades, as chronicled in our history books.
No Church, Catholic or other denomination, will be forced into anything they regard as against their doctrines because Section 572 G addresses their freedom to refuse to host such ceremonies or allow use of their facilities. Therefore, I believe this secion is essential as part of this law when it is passed.
We, the people, have given you our input, and we are ready and willing to support this law giving freedom and equality to everyone. We are depending on your intelligence and compassion as representatives of the people of Hawaii to enact the Marriage Equality Act.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Barb Travis, 91-999 La'aulu St. Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Barb Travis
91-999 La'aulu St., Unit F
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: Bart Dame
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony in support of SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:08:56 AM

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Capitol Auditorium

Testimony in Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to urge you to pass SB 1 and end the exclusion of gay and lesbian couples from the full and equal protection of the law.

I started testifying in favor of marriage equality in Hawaii in the mid-1990s. We have spent far too much time already, justifying prejudice and helping politicians dodge and evade their responsibility to support equality. Please, act decisively--at long last-- and pass this bill.

Some opponents of equality have fixed upon the religious exemption language in the bill as a tactic for obstructing passage of the bill or spreading the false impression this bill treads upon the religious freedom of persecuted conservative religious groups. In my view, the language on exemptions is unnecessary, as the US Constitution already provides protections for the private expression of prejudice, whether towards same sex marriage or, for that matter, inter-racial marriage. People have a private right to be prejudiced.

And Hawaii's Public Accommodation laws have a well-established guideline for differentiating between permissible private prejudice and illegal discrimination in providing public accommodations. There is no good LEGAL reason for including these exemptions.

There may, however, be tactical, POLITICAL reasons for including such language and I will yield to the judgment of the Legislature in cobbling together enough votes to pass the bill, even if it requires unnecessary language meant to reassure mis-informed voters that such language provides more protection than they already have.

Please pass this bill and allow our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters equal legal protection, as well as the message we embrace them as full members of our extended ohana.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Bart Dame

Bart Dame
710 West Hind Dr
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: Ben Robinson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SUPPORT for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:56:24 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ben Robinson
PO Box 166
APT 1106
Honolulu, HI 96810

I support extending equal rights to individuals who wish to enter marriage to a same gender partner. As a person who recalls the civil rights turmoil of the 1960s, I find it difficult to find the words to engage in "civil" discourse about something I believe to be a fundamental right guaranteed under the Constitution. I refer to this bill replacing the word "sex" with "gender" since that three letter word tends to make some otherwise rational folks behave with inexplicable agitation. Same gender partners simply ache to have the same rights that opposite gender partners take for granted. They believed it when they learned in school that they have inalienable rights, such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Life is not the same as existence. If that were the case legislators would mandate heroic measures be used without exception to assure that sick or injured folks would not die until medical science was exhausted. Life, in this case, implies that the law recognizes that a "quality of existence" supersedes the concept of life as the mere absence of death. Without this law, individuals will continue to be refused the opportunity for a quality of existence that includes social recognition that is available to every other member of our community who desires this unique experience sanctioning their deep, profound alignment with another human being.

Legislators who endorse limits on liberty are treading into shadowy territory. Such serious laws are only endorsed when one individual's exercise of liberty infringes on the rights and well-being of another. Same gender marriage does not impose on any other individual's rights or well-being. It does, in some cases, challenge mindsets that have been indoctrinated from parent to child for generations. So does the concept of communicating with a person via a flat box filled with wires and plastic. How strange cellphone technology would seem to my ancestors. How strange same gender marriage would seem to them as well. Probably as uncomfortable as it would be for them to see members of two distinctly separate races or ethnicities marry.

The objections I hear most often from those opposed to same gender marriage involve expressions of psychological discomfort or religious dogma. Which religious dogma dictates the basis for law in our state? There is none, as it should be. Religious or psychological objections to same gender marriage are neither scientifically based nor are they inspired by the voice of a single Divine being. Although loud, dissenting voices to this bill represent a small, albeit passionate and frightened fringe of our population. Many a fear is born of ignorance and unfamiliarity. The world will not cease to spin, and the firmament will not crash upon us once same gender marriage is authorized. Liberty itself is divinely endowed, in my opinion. Will you consider my religious dogma in equal measure when comparison to the other perspective?

Pursuit of happiness, when not harming the next person, is the final civil right I'd like to mention in my support statement. Ask many a married person what was the happiest moment of their life, and the answer often is "when he/she said 'yes'," referring to their partner agreeing to marry the person. The happiest moment of many a life has been that moment of recognition when two lives/hearts/spirits become so aligned that they are poetically referred to as "becoming one". What arrogance for any person to believe that one has authority to morally dictate who may, or may not, experience that moment of wonder and joy between two consenting adults. What violence it does to those individuals when society dismisses such an experience as spiritually corrupt.

Gay marriage is the 21st century's civil rights issue. It is not a matter for the "voters" to decide. Voters decide what taxes they do (or don't) want the location for new parks, and those sorts of public well-being matters. Voters should not get to decide whether individuals with dark skins get to vote, whether women have the intelligence to express political opinions, or whether partners of same gender can marry under civil statutes. Such matters are for the keepers of our Constitution. In this state it is you who bear the torch. Do not shirk this noble responsibility in fear when a small crowd of oppositionists threaten your public service career. The good you do, the honor you demonstrate, and the integrity with which you uphold your responsibilities will be judged correct and wise by future generations.

From: Bill Waring
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Support for SB1-Marriage Equality
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:28:50 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am submitting testimony today to urge you to pass marriage equality in Hawaii to put our civil laws in line with our societal values of equality under the law and inclusion versus exclusion.

Hawaii began this journey for our country and it is time that we finish what we started.

To be crystal clear, this is an issue for the Legislature to decide and I believe it is time for you to do just that during this special session.

Mahalo.

Bill Waring
1212 Nuuanu Ave. #1108
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Birgitta Soderberg
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:20:45 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I truly feel that America has fallen behind on this issue. I have lived in Europe my whole life and my gay friends there have had the rights to same-sex marriage for many years now.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Birgitta Soderberg
60 N. Beretania
Honolulu, HI 96817

Bryson Kaualani Keliipio
439 Kupuohi Pl
Hilo, HI 96720

October 24, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hon. Clayton Hee, Chair
Hon. Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Hon. Mike Gabbard
Hon. Brickwood Galuteria
Hon. Les Ihara, Jr.
Hon. Sam Slom
Hon. Mālama Solomon

Re: Testimony IN STRONG SUPPORT of SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

Honorable Chair Hee and committee members:

My name is Bryson Kaualani Keliipio. I was born and raised in Kailua kona and currently reside in Hilo. I am a Native Hawaiian Student and a proud member of the student organization P.R.I.D.E. ("People Respecting Individuality and Diversity in Everyone"). My future as a resident of Hawaii will only be strengthened and protected by the passing of this bill. Therefore, I write in **STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1.**

I write to you as a young gay individual who is worried about his future and the future of others. The bill that is being proposed is one that will only help those who identify themselves as LGBTQ. Many communities support this bill and the only groups that oppose it spring from religious views. These groups bash and undermine our relationships with pieces from the bible that don't relate to our relationships. These groups use the bible to support what they think is wrong, when the bible doesn't say anything against our relationships. Therefore, any and all oppositions towards this bill have branched from the bias and hate from religious groups.

What people don't understand about civil unions is that the people in civil unions don't have the same rights as people who are married. When people find the loves of theirs lives they want nothing but the best for them. Marriage is the only solution for this problem.

As Hawaiʻi's leaders, you are entrusted with the kuleana to do what is pono for our entire community. I encourage you to look into your naʻau and consider the peaceful and just world you want to shape for our keiki and moʻopuna. I am confident you will arrive at the same conclusion: that voting in favor of SB1 is the right thing to do.

Mālama Pono,

Bryson Kaualani Keliipio

From: Camille Rockett
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:25:22 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The opposition may use terms like "let the people decide," to disguise their agenda of imposing religious beliefs on fellow Americans, I would like to declare that I am one of the PEOPLE, and I support EQUALITY and JUSTICE for every person who lives in Hawaii and the United States.

While I don't necessarily believe that marriage is the most respected institution in this generation, I believe that if an American citizen wishes to demonstrate LOVE through marriage, it should be their right.

Hawaii has an opportunity to show the world that human rights matter, that people should be treated equally no matter their ethnicity, gender, and no matter who they love.

What we need to focus on is LOVE. ALOHA. OHANA. How do we keep our families, healthy, happy, and able to thrive in this difficult economy? I believe Jesus focused on these things when he was on earth, not on the law and religious interpretations.

Voting for equality shows you care about ALL people. It is a first very SMALL STEP in making life better for Hawaii's families, children, and most vulnerable. We need to continue to move forward in protecting and providing for our keiki and kupuna so that we will continue to have equality in health, happiness, and success in future generations.

Please vote for SB.

Camille Mariko Rockett

Camille Rockett
1926A Huina St
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: camille yoshiko copeland
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 1:06:54 PM

Ho'omaika'i
To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

camille yoshiko copeland
pob 223086
princeville, HI 96722

From:	Cara Spangler
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:46:49 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cara Spangler
1801 fisler ct
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: Carl Sorrentino
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:04:42 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Carl Sorrentino
3145 Baldwin Ave
#43-202
Makawao, HI 96768

From: Carolyn Golojuch
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 1:46:40 AM

October 24, 2013

Monday, October 28, 2013 –10:30 a.m.

Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor

State Capitol Auditorium

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1

Aloha Chairperson Hee and fellow committee members,

I strongly support SB 1 because:

1. - It's a US Constitutional Right as stated in the June 27, 2013 US Supreme Court Decision;
2. Social Justice calls for respect and dignity of all human beings;
3. Our Hawai`i State Constitution calls for equitable treatment of all citizens;
4. Hawai`i Civil Unions do not qualify under US law for 1,000+ rights of marriage;
5. Hawai`i needs SB1 to continue it's reputation as the land of Aloha;
6. Ancient Hawai'i respected all sexual identities prior to influx of Christian missionaries;
7. 14 other states, DC, some Native American tribes and 15 other countries have legalizes Full Marriage Rights;
8. Lt. Frank Golojuch, fought in WWII for Liberty and Justice for all Americans and his own Grandson doesn't have Liberty and Justice;
9. My husband and I are 48 years married and want the same rights for our gay son and the rest of the LGBT community;

10. US Military LGBT couples are recognized as legal couples and need Hawaii to legalize marriage for them to receive Federal benefits;

11. Our LGBT couples and families are in valuable and loving relationships and need the legalization to qualify for Federal rights, responsibilities and benefits;

12. Those churches that value their LGBT members want to perform wedding celebrations to respect them and it's discrimination to refuse this right;

13. I love my gay son and have worked for 18 years for his and all my other LGBT friends liberty and justice;

14. It's the right time for Justice.

Thank you for your consideration of this timely and important legal action.

Sincerely,

Reverend Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW

Universal Life Minster, Wife of 48 years, Mother of a daughter and a gay son

Gomama808@gmail.com

--
Carolyn Golojuch, MSW
92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71
Kapolei, HI 96707
(808) 779-9078
gomama808@gmail.com
"If more people believed in justice, freedom and justice would be reality." cmg

From: Cassandra Wong
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 6:31:21 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cassandra Wong
98-1034 Moanalua Road #4-104
#4-104
Aiea, HI 96701

From: Cat Taschner
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:19:10 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cat Taschner
4340 Pahoa Ave #3A
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Catherine Delnat
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:11:21 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Catherine Delnat
1060 Kamehameha Hwy
Apt 2402A
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: Catherine Ishida
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:42:39 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

To find someone whom you love and loves you back is one of the greatest blessings in life. To enter into a committed relationship rooted in love is one of life's greatest joys and challenges.

If the government recognizes such relationships with special privileges and responsibilities, it should not discriminate against couples for their choice of life partner.

As a person of mixed Japanese and European heritage, I've experienced discrimination on a daily basis living in Japan and on the mainland. I know what discrimination looks and feels like. It pains me to think that here in Hawaii we have continued to systematically discriminate against people based on whom they have fallen in love with.

There is no aloha in denying people access to healthcare, retirement income, hospital visitation rights, etc. and above all the simple dignity of knowing that we are fully welcomed members of society, on the basis of who we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families, gay, lesbian, and straight.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Catherine Ishida
126 Kanoelani St
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Celeste Magnani
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:02:53 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Celeste Magnani
271 N. Kainalu Dr
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Cherie Espinueva
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:49:01 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cherie Espinueva
129 Kamahao circle
Wailuku, HI 96793

From:	Christopher Medeiros
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 5:40:32 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Christopher Medeiros
47-595 Puapo'o Place
Kaneohe, HI 06511

From:	Chrystal Hogue
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 7:35:55 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Chrystal Hogue
885 wanaao
kailua, HI 96734

From: Clayton Logue
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:19:34 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Clayton Logue
156 Central Ave
PO Box 2393
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Cloudia Charters
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:15:08 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

In my 60 years (26 here in our wonderful Hawaii) I have seen first hand the damage done to children, young adults, even seniors like me, by official discrimination that negates our relationships and humanity.

Churches may do as they wish. Mine performs union ceremonies to ALL who sincerely request. But our State must evolve with other humane Jurisdictions.

PLEASE allow healing, and a more mature Spirituality by supporting SB 1 at this time.
Mahalo Nui, REV. Cloudia Charters

Cloudia Charters
PO Box 89582
Honolulu, HI 96830

From: Craig Tennant
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:12:14 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To the undecided legislators. It's clear to us that if you don't support us, you don't understand us. That we're NORMAL. Born this way!!! Denying us our human rights is cruel,absurd, barbaric!
PLEASE side with all those who KNOW the truth.
C&R together for 24 years.

Craig Tennant
P.O.Box 382
Laupahoehoe, HI 96764

Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB 1: Relating to Equal Rights**

My name is Cyr Pakele. I reside in Waipio-Gentry in Waipahu. I am a social worker by profession. I am also an advisor to the PRIDE Club at the high school where I work.

PRIDE is an acronym for People Respecting Individuality and Diversity in Everyone. PRIDE was founded by a group of high school students concerned for their classmate who came "out of the closet." PRIDE Club not only provides a safe haven for LGBTQ & other disenfranchised youths, it seeks to advocate & educate our larger community about love, respect, and equality for all!

Sister Joan Chatfield appropriately states, "… we are all unique children of God. Being gay is another part of the diversity of life. You cannot make yourself or unmake yourself gay. It is the way God has chosen you. (*Golden rule should guide marriage issue. Views & Voices*, Honolulu Star Advertiser, October 20, 2014.)

As a social worker for the past 35+ years, I am all too familiar with the social injustices inflicted upon the LGBT community. Stories of discrimination, stigmatism, ostracism, & hate-crimes appear daily in our newspapers. Anti-LGBT bullying, violence and harassment are commonplace in our schools especially. And sadly, LGBTQ teens and young adults attempt suicide in alarming numbers.

As PRIDE club advisor, I recall an incident when one of my students made a serious suicide attempt. I asked myself, "Why would a smart, talented, handsome & popular class leader want to kill himself?" He had come out to his parents; and he was chastised and rejected by them. Surely, this desperate act gives pause to examine the loneliness, isolation, and lack of acceptance faced by LGBTQ people.

What would you do if your son/daughter killed him/her-self because he/she is gay? Is a young person's life and identity worth the rejection?

We are all created equal in God's eyes.

I support the marriage equality bill and ask that you vote YES.

October 24, 2013

Aloha & Good morning Chairman Clayton Hee
& Senate Committee members of the
Hawaii Judiciary & Labor Committee,

As a resident & a 70 year old voter in the
Aiea, Halawa, Newtown district, living at
98-1704 Kiawe St (Newtown Estates) Aiea, my
name is Angela C. Ho. Mahalo, thank
you for accepting this written testimony
opposing the proposed legislation. I'm
grateful & thank my Lord Jesus for your
service to us, Hawaii's Ohana.

As a retired Hawaii school Counselor and
Teacher for over 30 years, I have a deep, loving
concern for our children & future generations.
I've taught & hopefully modeled the values
of respect & integrity within our democratic
society. As an educator-leader in schools
& still working as a substitute & volunteer,
I know the importance of speaking truth,
having a clean conscience & serving others.

Please do not support a special session
since more deliberate analysis & consideration
are paramount to clearer decisions & more
wisdom. True democracy is mocked when
there's a "rush" in a most controversial issue.
Your constituents' voices cannot be effectively
heard in a short 5-day special session.
I believe we, Hawaii's people, addressed this
issue in 1998 & should be consulted again.
I thank you again for allowing me to "voice"
my heart's concerns. Mahalo.

Respectfully submitted, Angela C. Ho

10/23/2013

Aloha! Chairman Clayton Hee and Senate Committee members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee,

My name is Dale Stevens, I am 53 years of age and reside on the Windward Side at 47-097A Kamehameha Hwy, Kaneohe HI 96744.

I would like to thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony opposing this legislation, and also to take this opportunity to thank you for your service in serving the People of Hawaii.

With that said, I believe we the people of Hawaii should be allowed to vote on this issue and strongly oppose to the "Special session".

Respectfully submitted,
Dale Stevens
47-097 A Kamehameha Hwy
Kaneohe, HI 96744

GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN CLAYTON HEE AND SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY AND LABOR COMMITTEE,

MY NAME IS BARON LEE AND LIVE IN THE AINA HAINA DISTRICT. I AM A FATHER OF FIVE ADULT CHILDREN AND CURRENTLY A GRANDFATHER OF THREE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND HARD WORK TO OUR COMMUNITY. AND THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ MY WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY OPPOSITION TO THIS SPECIAL SESSION BECAUSE IT DENIES THE PEOPLE THEIR RIGHTS TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. SETTING THIS TYPE OF PRECEDENCE CONCERNS ME FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR HAWAII. THERE MAY BE NO STOPPING OF "SPECIAL SESSIONS" FOR ISSUES THAT WOULD IMPACT EVERY RESIDENT, YET, SHOULD ALLOW FOR ALL VOTING CITIZENS TO HAVE INPUT.

I STRONGLY URGE AND ASK YOU TO RECONSIDER SUSPENDING THIS SPECIAL SESSION.

RESPECTFULLY,
BARON LEE

Oct. 24, 2013

GOOD MORNING, CHAIRMAN CLAYTON HEE AND SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY AN LABOR COMMITTEE.

MY NAME IS JOAN OHARA, A 70 YEAR OLD VOTER RESIDING AT 800 THIRD ST., PEARL CITY, HAWAII.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SUBMIT MY WRITTEN TESTIMONY OPPOSING THIS SPECIAL SESSION.

IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THIS 5 DAY SPECIAL SESSION IS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO DISCUSS THIS MOST CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE OF SAME SEX MARRIAGE, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION IS ONLY TWO MONTHS AWAY.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ASK YOU TO PLEASE ALLOW THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII TO VOTE ON THIS ISSUE, AS THIS ISSUE AFFECTS US ALL.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Joan Ohara

Good morning Chairman Clayton Hee and Senate committee members of the Judiciary and Labor committee,

My name is Dorothy Akamine, a 73 year old voter residing at 98-1745 Hapaki St., Aiea, Hi. 96701. I want to thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony opposing this legislation. A five day session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time. A "yes" vote during special session is a "no" vote to democracy because the voice of the people is not being heard. I strongly urge that this issue be placed on the ballot next election. I recommend as a concerned citizen and registered voter, to suspend the special session.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Akamine

October 23, 2013

Dear Chairman Clayton Hee and
Senate Committee members of
the Judiciary and Labor committee:

My name is Betty Sasaki. I'm a 71 year old registered voter who resides in Salt Lake, Honolulu, Hawaii.

I appreciate and thank you all for your diligent service to the people of Hawaii.

I would like to urge you to cancel this Special Session to address Same Sex marriage because:

1) it does not give adequate time for amendments to be proposed, discussed, and voted on;
2) it does not give enough time for the people to give their testimonies and express their wishes and desires;
3) this bill can be satisfactorily proposed, discussed, amended, and put to vote in the regular session which is <u>only</u> a few months away.

Thank you for considering my request!

Aloha, Betty Sasaki
2950 Ala Lima St, Apt 803
Honolulu, Hi 96818

Chairman Clayton Hee & Senate Committee
Members of the Judiciary & Labor Committee:
My name is Chris Tanigawa, age 64, residing
at 3775 Kilauea Avenue, Honolulu, 96816.
Thank you for allowing me to submit my written
testimony opposing same sex marriage.
May our legislators continue to uphold the
Hawaiian Preamble and the Constitution of
the United States.

From my heart, [signature]

Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono

From: Danette Kong
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:08:26 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing
Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am an ordained Southern Baptist minister whose roots reach back to Kohala, Hawaii, in the mid-1800s, currently employed as a full time hospital chaplain on a neighbor island. My three sisters and I were born in Wahiawa, and raised by a loving, deeply religious, Christian family. Our parents are well known to the Southern Baptist community in Hawaii.

After one of my sisters "came out" to our family in 1979, I set my sights on pursuing a Masters Degree in counseling, in the hopes of one day helping LGBTs change their orientation. While in seminary, I read all the books I could get my hands on which addressed the issue. I studied the Bible in its original Greek and Hebrew, as well as numerous scholarly studies and interpretations. The more I sincerely sought answers, and the more I prayed for guidance, the more I believe God led me to discover I was coming at it from the wrong angle. I began to sit down with my sister, her friends, several of my classmates from high school and college, members of my church, and others who were gay and lesbian -- and REALLY listen to them.

At the height of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, I was given the privilege of working with HIV-positive patients, and soon recognized that the relationships I witnessed between several gay couples exceeded the commitment and love I saw in many heterosexual marriages.

It was a journey of a decade before I could finally "come out" as a straight advocate for LGBT rights, including same-gender marriage. And I have never wavered in my decision to do so. I have been told there was discussion of rescinding my ordination when I testified before the legislature in favor of same-gender marriage back in the 1990s.

There are all sorts of theological reasons I could give you, but mainly, I'm writing because I want you to know that not all Southern Baptists or members of other conservative churches go along with what their leadership and other members believe. Many are actually leaving their churches because of this issue.

My mother, two of my sisters, and I now live on Maui, where one sister has lived for the past 25 years, and her husband is a retired judge. Rather than get involved in discussions that we know would prove fruitless, my mother and I have made the choice to attend a church of another denomination here. Our love for, and pride in my lesbian sister, and God's biblical message of acceptance and love for ALL people are central to our personal beliefs. Mom's main caregiver is actually that sister, who lives with her partner. I think it's truly lovely to recognize that things have come full-circle in a couple ways:
1) Back in 1953, it was illegal for Mom and Dad to get married in her home state of Mississippi, due to anti-miscegenation laws. In fact, her parents pulled her out of seminary when they found out she was in love with a non-white boy. True love eventually won out.
2) After my sister came out to Mom in 1979, her friends were always welcome in our home. Some actually came to live with my family after being kicked out of their own homes and disowned by their parents. Mom always baked them their only birthday cakes.

In some Christian circles a frequently asked question is, "What would Jesus do?" As far as I'm concerned, Mom

gave (and continues to live) the truest Christian response to homosexuality I have ever seen or witnessed.

If the government and my very religious maternal grandparents had continued to maintain their anti-miscegenation laws and attitudes back in 1953, it is highly likely that I would not exist to be able to write you this letter. It is my strong belief that no one -- especially the government -- should be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Danette Kong
220-B West Kauai Street
Kahului, HI 96732

From: Daniel Dangaran
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:56:24 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Born and raised in Wahiawa, Hawaii, I have found it immensely gratifying and liberating to know I have supportive parents, friends, and classmates. I'm a current student at Yale University, and have been very active in LGBT activism during my time in college. One of the draws of the East Coast is its open-minded approach of embracing diversity. Hawaii is known for this, too. However, it saddens me when I must tell people the "real" experience of living in Hawaii. Too often do I hear slurs of "mahu" thrown around. Our land of rainbows has made it very difficult for the rainbow flag of LGBT equality to be flown proudly because of the culturally widespread notions against LGBT people. Same-sex marriage would be one important step toward defeating that stigma, though it's far from the end.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Daniel Dangaran
1425 Manua Street
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From: Darcy Daniel
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:13:46 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Darcy Daniel
75-5744 Alii Dr, Ste 200
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: David Lane
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 3:54:45 PM

My partner and I have been together for over 18 years and are raising five children. Three of them have gone on to prestigious universities and have become a teacher, a scientist, and an financial executive. We still have twins in Koloa.

All we want is the same rights as every other married couple in Hawaii. And that is what America is about. Equal rights. No more, no less.

David Lane
Koloa, HI

David Lane
4160 Omao Road
Koloa, HI 96756

From: David O"Quinn
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:31:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Regardless of whether you think Same-Sex-Marriage is popular or not, does not matter. It is a basic right that each human has the right to marry according to the original constitution. The domestic partnership currently granted in Hawaii only serves a small portion of rights that are granted through a legal marriage contract.
If you remember it was not so long ago that interracial marriage was not legal. If this was true today then probably the majority of partners in Hawaii would be null and void. It is this point alone that in the early 1990's, when Marriage equality was first explored in Hawaii, I thought it would be accepted by the general Hawaiian population.

You may also remember at the time that many of the religious groups who opposed marriage equality claimed that if the word "marriage" was removed from the right to marry that they would have no reason to oppose it. Those same nay-sayers showed up to oppose domestic partnership. Now they raise the concern that churches who oppose same-sex-marriage will be forced to participate in these unions. This is absurd as who in their right mind would want to ruin their sacred day by being among parishioners who claim to be unsupportive.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David O'Quinn
6437 Kahuna Rd. Unit B
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: Dean Hamer
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1...don"t let down this new fed retiree
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:40:26 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

When I retired from forty years of federal government service two years ago, I decided to retire to Hawaii for two reasons.

First you give us a tax break. I assume that's because it's good for the state to have seniors with steady income.

Second because I was confident my partner and I would be treated fairly even though we are both male.

Please don't fail us now. As the rest of the country moves quickly to equality, it would be very sad to have Hawaii look like Alabama.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Malama pono

Dean Hamer
58125c Iwia pl
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: Denise Perdue
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:03:57 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is an indispensable liberty that should not be denied to any individual. Gay and lesbian couples marry for the same reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawai‘i, all family members are accepted for who they are as an individual, regardless of their belief and lifestyle. No member of the ‘ohana (family) – gay or straight – face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the position to be able to dictate which individuals can and cannot marry. It is the job of the government to promote equality for all persons, regardless of its own personal beliefs.

I strongly urge you to pass SB 1 to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawai‘i’s families and people.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Denise Perdue
87-1879 Holopono Place
Waianae, HI 96792

From: Debora Halbert
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 12:45:09 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We the undersigned members (faculty, graduate students and staff) of the Department of Political Science at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa write to provide our full support to the issue of marriage equality and the legislative special session to pass this legislation. As professionals in the study of law, politics and policy, we understand the legislative efforts of the State of Hawai‘i to be consistent with the constitution and the concept of equal protection. The United States Supreme Court has recently made it clear that federal benefits cannot be withheld from legally married gay couples. In doing so, the court extended the concept of equal protection to all marriages in the United States and made it clear that discriminatory practices in marriage were inconsistent with the law. Given that equal protection under the law is a fundamental principle in American jurisprudence, civil unions can no longer suffice. Thus, it is our opinion that the State of Hawai‘i should support gay marriage as fundamental to meeting its constitutional burdens under the equal protection clause.

Furthermore, as scholars who take our location in Hawai‘i seriously, we celebrate the way that Native Hawaiian culture has historically embraced diverse expressions of sexuality and gender. Edified by Hawaiian oral and written traditions, we know that mahu and aikane relationships, for example, were valued since before the introduction of the institution of marriage. Through the Hawaiian language, which does not use gendered pronouns like "he" or "she," we can see possibilities to open more ways of honoring all people and their expressions of loving commitment. Just as we are looking to other states who are leading the way in protecting marriage for all people, we can also look to the Indigenous traditions of this place for guidance about how to honor and value diverse expressions of love.

We support gay marriage because as employees at an institution dedicated to EEO principles, we see the advantages and benefits of having equal access to marriage in Hawai‘i. We see this first hand in the ways access to equal benefits impacts our students, our colleagues, and the staff at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa. We seek to work in a professional environment that treats all its employees equally and extends the same benefits to all. The passage of this law will help move Hawai‘i and the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa closer to that goal.

Finally, as individuals committed to social justice and equality, we believe that a vote for marriage equality is long overdue. We stand with the unions, businesses, and elected officials who have endorsed the law. All things considered, it is time Hawai‘i follows the lead of other states who have adopted similar provisions to allow for same sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Debora J. Halbert,
Noelani Goodyear-Kaopua,
Jon Goldberg-Hiller,
James Dator,
Kathy Ferguson,

Mike Shapiro,
Hokulani Aikau,
Jairus Grove,
Katharina Heyer,
Nevzat Soguk,
Ehito Kimura,
Colin Moore,
Kate Zhou,
Myungji Yang,
Sankaran Krishna,
Manfred Steger,
Kathleen Brennen,
Akta Kaushal,
Mary Tuti Baker,
Anjali Nath,
Duyen Bui,
John A. Sweeney,
Gino Zarrinfa,
Matthew Petrasek,
Tina Grandinetti,
Bettina Brown,
Taryn Kaili,
Heather Frey,
Heather Heffner,
Julia Guimaraes,
Benjamin Schrader,
Rex Troumbley,
Joshua Pryor
Michelle Brown

Debora Halbert
2757 Terrace Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Derek Brow
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:14:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

I have personally witnessed many of my friends deal with the obstacles of "coming out" to their families and friends. The lack of acknowledgment and respect for gay couples to legally get married has made this pathway for acceptance even harder. I strongly believe that a marriage equality bill, such as SB1, is an excellent way for our state to show support and acceptance of gay couples throughout Hawaii, and that it should be passed immediately.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Now is the time for our state to show the rest of the nation how open-minded and respectful we are of others.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Derek Brow

Derek Brow
Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: Diane Iwaoka
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:35:41 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic human freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Marriage is about building a relationship between two persons who choose to be together in matrimony, as a family, and to contribute to community.

In Hawaii, family reigns supreme. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should be denied this human right to a meaningful relationship. Our government should not be involved in tampering with this basic right to become a family.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify

Diane Iwaoka
1408 Ala Iolani Street
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: Donna Au
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:38:01 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Donna Au
66-126 Awai Ln.
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: Doug Gray
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:58:52 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Doug Gray
50 Waiohuli Street #C
C
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Dr Tom Kane
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:43:57 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

"We are 2 doctoral level psychotherapists, and also ministers who are licensed by the state of Hawaii to officiate heterosexual weddings. We have been together as a committed couple for over 22 years, and have been legally married in Canada (Toronto, 2004) and California (San Francisco, 2008).

Please vote yes for Marriage Equality so that we ourselves can be married in our home state, and also perform legally-recognized marriages (with over 1,000 legal protections that heterosexual couples enjoy) for other committed couples, both residents and tourists who want to spend their wedding dollars here on Maui and throughout the state of Hawaii.

Mahalo.

Dr. David Shaw
Dr. Tom Kane
Wailuku
kaneshaw@msn.com
808-214-5699"

Dr Tom Kane
2599 Main Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Dr. Elizabeth Bethea
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:55:00 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The State of Hawai`i has strong social, political, economic and ethical interests in extending equal rights and opportunities to every citizen. The many benefits of enacting laws to increase equality, freedom and responsibilities have been documented repeatedly by research, and borne out by history.

We have seen that the direction of human progress and evolution is always toward greater freedom, greater diversity and complexity, greater expression of creativity, generosity, volunteerism and cooperation. As a community, we are strengthened, never weakened, by realizing and maintaining diversity within unity, and unity within diversity.

It is now time for the Aloha State to take its place in history by upholding the traditional Hawai`ian values of welcoming all people of good will, celebrating diversity, and walking the talk of non-judgment, acceptance and inclusion. We are all `ohana, and no one should be excluded because of whom we love.

This is an auspicious moment in our State's history and, as an elected official, you have a unique and rare opportunity to contribute to a more Pono future for all of us, and for future generations. Mahalo nui loa for your leadership in advancing equality for all of Hawai`i’s families.

Dr. Elizabeth Bethea
238 Kaimanawai Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Dr David Shaw
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:46:04 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. "We are 2 doctoral level psychotherapists, and also ministers who are licensed by the state of Hawaii to officiate heterosexual weddings. We have been together as a committed couple for over 22 years, and have been legally married in Canada (Toronto, 2004) and California (San Francisco, 2008).

Please vote yes for Marriage Equality so that we ourselves can be married in our home state, and also perform legally-recognized marriages (with over 1,000 legal protections that heterosexual couples enjoy) for other committed couples, both residents and tourists who want to spend their wedding dollars here on Maui and throughout the state of Hawaii.

Mahalo.

Dr. David Shaw
Dr. Tom Kane
Wailuku
kaneshaw@msn.com
808-214-5699"

Dr David Shaw
2599 Main Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Dylan Faltine-Gonzalez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:57:56 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dylan Faltine-Gonzalez
1448 Young St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: eduardoworks@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:03:00 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Eduardo Hernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: To: The Members of the 2013 Hawaii Special Legislative Session From: Eduardo Hernandez Re: Support for Marriage Equality I urge you to affirm SB 1 for immediate enactment by Governor Abercrombie. This bill will be important for families everywhere who can realize the full and equal treatment of the law in Hawaii. Just as winter kicks in across North America, this legislation will send a powerful message that Hawaii is a welcoming destination for all families. The 50th state can be the 15th to adopt marriage equality, on the leading edge of fulfilling America's destiny of equality and justice for all.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Eldon Wegner
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:23:37 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1 allowing marriage between same-sex couples.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom which is being has been affirmed by numerous decisions in recent state courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. Hawaii, as the rainbow state, should take this step now. The Legislature has the authority to do this.

A few years ago, I experienced a heart-breaking situation when my partner of 12 years had a mental breakdown and was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia. Despite my best efforts, because I was not considered family, my efforts to keep informed about him and work with his case managers in helping him were rejected. This is just one example of discrimination which impacts gay and lesbian couples.

Opponents of this bill are misinformed about the impacts of this bill -- it does not infringe on the rights of religious groups -- but it would have many positive impacts in supporting families of same-sex couples. Please do not allow opponents to obfuscate what this bill is about.

Please support passage of SB 1 affirming the right for same-sex couples to marry.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, Eldon L. Wegner, Ph.D.

Eldon Wegner
2333 Kapiolani Blvd #2413
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: Elizabeth O"Connor
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:42:58 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Elizabeth O'Connor
430 Keoniana St #608
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Ellen Balsley
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:08:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Everyone lucky enough to find a life partner should be granted the benefits of marriage, and the right to form a family.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ellen Balsley
66-980 Kuewa Dr
Waialua, HI 96791

From: Ellen Cantiberos
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:13:17 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ellen Cantiberos
2420 Puunoa Placw
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Erick Ehrhorn
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:08:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.
In the Nineties, the supreme court ruled that the state must show a compelling interest if they were going to prevent gays from marrying. I remember hearing on the radio then that a couple of gay couples were allowed to marry in California by a judge who after researching it found no reason not to. Until that point I had no opinion one way or another but always found that to be logical and so I have supported the right of gays to marry ever since.
Gay marriage should have been legalized then but instead an amendment was passed that gave the legislature the right to decide who can marry. The result was that gay marriage was not allowed for 20 years.
This is about to be finally corrected with the special session that is about to happen.. Please restore the right to marry to everyone.
The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.
In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.
The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. People do not need to be told who they can and cannot marry. They can figure this out for themselves.
In the past, society had restrictions against mixed race marriages and those finally bit the dust. It is time for restrictions against same sex marriage to also bite the dust.
Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.
Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Erick Ehrhorn
254 Kaha St.
Kailua, HI 96734

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1 – Relating to Equal Rights
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30am, State Capitol Auditorium

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the JDL Committee:

The Young Democrats of Hawaii overwhelmingly supports Senate Bill 1, Relating to Equal Rights.

Hawaii is poised to become the 15th state in the nation to recognize same-sex marriage and marriage equality in the Aloha State is long overdue. Young people overwhelmingly support the notion that two individuals regardless of sex that seek to enter into a marriage should be afforded the same rights and privileges as everyone else.

We support same-sex marriage because we believe in equality and justice for all. Furthermore, the Democratic Party of Hawaii has a long history of fighting for equality in all sectors of life; from workers' rights to teachers' rights and we believe it is time for our elected officials to support equality for all.

We believe it's time that Hawaii joins the 14 other states in the nation to recognize same-sex marriage and we hope you will take this opportunity to do the right thing and herald in a new era of equality and recognition that is long overdue.

With Aloha,

Francis H. Choe
President

The Young Democrats of Hawaii represent over 1500 registered Young Democrats, between the ages of 16 and 35. We strive to stimulate in young people an active interest in governmental affairs, promote their involvement in the political process, increase the political strength of young people, and provide the highest degree of social justice and equal opportunity for Hawaii's people.

www.ydhi.org | www.facebook.com/YoungDemsHI | @YoungDemsHI

From: Sen. Clayton Hee
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: FW: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 3:21:32 PM

From: Terea Macomber [anaterea@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:57 PM
To: All Senators
Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

Being from Las Vegas where marriage ceremonies are overseen by terrible Elvis impersonators, conducted in drive-thrus, or even held at a strip club; I am aware of what damage can be done to the institution of marriage. One's sexuality is not one of them.

I've always seen Hawaii as a place of unity, generosity, and 'ohana. Nature's forces came together and created these beautiful islands; the generous rainfall and tropical temperatures allowed for a beautiful array of plants and animals which should all be reflected in society.

Inhibiting couples to get married because of their sexual orientation is just as an offense if the government was still keeping different races from marrying. If this was still true, my Mom(black) and My Dad(white) would never have married and we all know where I would be...non existent.

I look forward to being witness to your history changing decision supporting Equal Marriage. Thank You.

Terea Macomber
PO Box 22651
Honolulu, HI 96823

From: garid chapman
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:35:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

garid chapman
95-107 Huaala Place
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Gary chen
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:22:13 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

It amazes me in the state of Aloha that we couldn't be at the forefront of such a spirit of kindness and love.

It is hard enough in this day and age to just find someone and stay together without other obstacle that preach hate and non acceptance. In every ohana I can almost guarantee has someone who this bill affects and for us not to pass this bill is not only morally wrong but goes against who we are as a community.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gary chen
3738 Pukalani Place
honolulu, HI 96816

From: Gerald Lai
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 1:59:25 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The law of land & the United States is the Constitution, not the Old Testament, New Testament, the Koran, the Book of Mormon, the Torah, the Vedas, or any other religious scripture.
The U.S. Declaration of Independence, drafted by Thomas Jefferson, states " We hold these truths to be self-evident, that ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable RIGHTS, that among these are LIFE, LIBERTY & THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

Please pass this bill to Expand EQUALITY FOR ALL GAY PEOPLE & THEIR FAMILIES IN HAWAII & IN THE NATION.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gerald Lai
95061 Waikalani Dr D806
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Greg and Pat Farstrup
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:41:24 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Greg and Pat Farstrup
2604-B Booth Road
Honolulu, HI 96813

From:	Gregory Garneau
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 10:45:04 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My partner, Steve Torres, and I have been in a committed relationship since 1984 and have lived in Hawaii since 1991. We have thought of getting married out of state many times, however, we want to be married in Hawaii which is our home. You no doubt have been told of the many reasons in favor of equal marriage, but in our view the most important reason is to listen to the people who will be most affected by the legislation. Steve and I are asking that our relationship have the same respect, rights, and responsibilities as any opposite sex, married couple. We do not want special rights under the law, just the same ones that married couples enjoy.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gregory Garneau
27 Manu Street
Kula, HI 96790

ADA HAWAI'I
AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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Bart Dame (Alt)
Josh Frost (Alt)
Marsha Schweitzer (Alt)

MAILING ADDRESS
PO. Box 617
Honolulu
Hawai'i 96822

October 25, 2013

TO: Chair Clayton Hee, Vice-Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM : Americans for Democratic Action, Hawaii Chapter

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

The Declaration of Independence stands for the proposition that all citizens are equal and endowed with certain unalienable rights including life, liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. The Fourteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution states in part: "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

In *Brown v. Board of Education*, the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that the doctrine of "separate but equal" has no place in the field of public education. Such segregation deprives citizens of "equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment." Although the Hawaii civil union law creates a bundle of rights for same sex couples, it does not provide equal protection of the laws under other federal and state laws. Even the difference in title – civil union versus marriage – is a badge of inequality. Equal justice demands that we discard this badge and grant true marriage equality for all.

Don't get confused into thinking Senate Bill No. 1 affects religious rights. It's about equality – the same kind of equality that requires us to forego racial and religious distinctions. The Marriage Equality Bill does not interfere with the right of any religious order to restrict which weddings will be performed within its sanctuaries.

Keep alive the American promise of diversity and equality that dates back to the Declaration of Independence, the U. S. Constitution, and the 14th Amendment's right to equal protection of the law.

VOTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 1 VOTE FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY.

From: Hali Davis-Sherwood
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:27:51 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Hali Davis-Sherwood
752 Kaupakalua Rd
Haiku, HI 96708

From: Henry Sandoval
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:19:28 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Henry Sandoval
700 Richards st 1607
Honolulu, HI 96813

October 24, 2013

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in strong support of SB1, which would finally bring marriage equality to Hawaiʻi.

You have a responsibility to your constituents to ensure that every person has the rights and freedoms associated with citizenship. This includes marriage.

As a 21-year-old recent college graduate, I can say with confidence that this is a non-issue for the vast majority of my generation, the future leaders of this state and nation. Marriage equality is inevitable, but you have an opportunity *now* to pass SB1 and stand on the right side of history.

I was born and raised on the North Shore. I want to be able to take pride in my home state. Here, we share the spirit of aloha, and we value diversity, tolerance, and inclusion. SB1 is a culmination of a 20-year struggle for equality that encapsulates these values. I urge you to vote yes in this matter.

Mahalo,

Holly Berlin

66-980 Kuewa Dr.
Waialua, HI 96791

From: Honolulu Friends Meeting Religious Society of Friends
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:02:27 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Honolulu Friends Meeting Religious Society of Friends
2426 Oahu Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Jacin Harter
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:00:59 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jacin Harter
3835 Sierra Drive
under the stairs
Honolulu, HI 96816

From:	Jack Hoag
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Cc:	Sen. Clayton Hee
Subject:	SB 1 Relating to equal rights
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:48:39 AM

Attention Chair Clayton Hee,

In 1998 all of our people were given their "equal rights," as traditionally granted under our democratic system, by having the opportunity to vote on a societal sea change. As you know, after years of study, debate, and a massive public vote, the people of Hawaii upheld traditional marriage.

Now we are on the verge of what only can be deemed, "railroading" an administration bill, by an unpopular Governor, that circumvents the will of Hawaii's citizens.

Not that many years ago, when I supported your initial Senate candidacy, you pledged to uphold the principles and standards of your Moku. We respectfully implore you to review the heartfelt wishes of ALL your constituency, before embarking on this radical experiment in the structure of Hawaii's families.

Aloha, Jack & Jeanette Makaio Hoag
818 Moaniala St. Honolulu, HI 96821(808) 373-3783

From: James Berlin
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:05:52 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Families are important to everyone!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

James Berlin
66-980 Kuewa Drive
Waialua, HI 96791

My name is James F. Cartwright. I am giving testimony on the issue of gay marriage, at least partially because I am a member of minorities. Five generations of my family are Mormon. All my ancestors except one great great grandmother arrived in Utah before 1869 when the transcontinental railroad connected the east with the west coast. Her daughter, my great grandmother, and my great great grandfather had already reached Utah.

Early this month, Mormon leaders read a letter from the leadership to the members in the weekly Sunday meeting instructing the members to contact the state legislators concerning gay marriage. The letter instructed members to share with their legislators how they felt about gay marriage. The letter avoided taking an official position on the issue, but the Church's statements over the past decade leave little doubt what position the leaders wanted the members to take. In addition, the letter suggested that the members not state that they were members of the LDS Church. One minority to which I belong comes from my position as a Mormon on LGBT marriage rights which I support.

The other minority to which I belong is that I am gay. I totally followed the Mormon Church's instructions on how to cure myself–or persuade God to cure me–of my homosexuality. From the age of eighteen, when as a freshman I entered therapy at Brigham Young University to cure my attraction to other men, into my early fifties, I participated in the church fully. I was promised many times that if I would do "x," God would cure me. One morning in my early fifties, I finally heard God's message to me: God accepted me as I was created, not as I tried to change myself to be. I was part of God's creation that, to quote *Genesis*, God said "was good."

I am now legally married in California to my partner of seventeen years. So why should I care? I care because there is a difference between 'domestic partnership,' 'civil unions,' and marriage. 'Separate but equal' was deemed unacceptable by the US Supreme Court in 1954. Hawai'i State Legislature should not assume that 'domestic partnership' is as good as genuine marriage. According to an article in the *New York Times*, describing marriages in New Jersey on Monday 21 October 2013 just after midnight, included the following direct quote:

> Using that ruling as the legal underpinning for a decision issued last month, Judge Mary C. Jacobson of State Superior Court in Mercer County found that the state's not allowing same-sex couples to marry deprived them of received federal benefits and "is currently harming same-sex couples in New Jersey in a wide range of contexts."[1]

The judge's words apply to LGBT persons in Hawai'i as well as New Jersey. Not allowing us to marry is to restrict our civil rights and deny us benefits offered other citizens. It is passed time for Hawai'i legislators to correct the wrongs committed against us.

James F. Cartwright
2525 Date St. #4105
Honolulu, HI 96826

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[1] http://mobile.nytimes.com/2013/10/22/nyregion/christie-withdraws-appeal-of-same-sex-marriage-ruling-in-new-jersey.html?from=homepage, viewed 21 October 2013.

From: James Lee
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:23:46 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is James Jaewhan Lee. I am 51 years old and have the honor to have been living in Maui for eleven and one half years with my same sex partner of almost 20 years. We will celebrate our 20th anniversary this December 31.

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Equal treatment under the law is fundamental to our way of life.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Malama pono.

James Lee
3136 South Kihei Road
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Jan Lubin
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1 Testimony
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:28:24 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re: Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry whomever you choose is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jan Lubin
4300 Waialae Avenue
Apt. A-1106
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Jean Campbell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:17:34 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am unable to testify in person so I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I believe strongly that equal rights should be provided to all our citizens, regardless of whether we individually agree with or approve of their lifestyle. Our constitution requires a separation of church and state and therefore no one's religious beliefs can be a basis to deny another citizen's civil rights.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jean Campbell
1329 Kuuna St
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Jeffrey Hong
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:50:40 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jeffrey Hong
700 Richards
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Jeffrey Yoshida
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:01:04 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jeffrey Yoshida
803 Ekela Ave. apt. A
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Jeri Arin
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Support SB1!
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:42:54 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I strongly support SB! and I hop that you do too.

The government should not be in the business of telling consenting adults who they can and cannot marry.

This state is not up for the repercussions if this bill doesn't pass. Our state cannot afford the legal battles that will ensue. Precedence has already been set in this matter, let us move our state forward into the future not allow it to wallow in the past.

If this bill doesn't pass my partner of 17 years and I will seek justice under Article IV, Section 1 of our country's constitution that says that "Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state". We will marry in a state that is legal and seek "Full faith and credit" in our own home state of Hawaii if necessary.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for ALL of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jeri Arin
PO Box 1916
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: Jessica Dungans
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:29:52 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.
And personally, I have grown up in the theater around many beautifully talented souls without whom I never would have been educated in the arts. I owe my life's passion to many people gay and straight who have taught me so much more than dance and acting, but how to fully express myself and be happy and unapologetically myself. They deserve every equal right, and to deny them is horribly unjust.

Jessica Dungans
21 Lopaka Place
Kula, HI 96790

From: Jill Roberts
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:26:19 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jill Roberts
PO Box 1268
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Jim Wagner
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:20:08 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I have been with my partner for 36 years this November. Nothing would make me happier than be able to marry him on our anniversary.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jim Wagner
3210 Lanina PL
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Joan Heller
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:27:19 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joan Heller
3820 Uakea Place
Lawai, HI 96765

From: Joanne Murray
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:50:18 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joanne Murray
2243 Mohala Way
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: truly.joannies@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:09:37 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/24/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Joannie Pan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: Jocelyn Fujii
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:16:42 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We are now given one more opportunity to prove that Hawai‘i is a state of inclusion and diversity, a place where cultures converge and ‘ohana is a defining legacy. I believe that our right to marry the person of our choice is absolute, beyond the purview of government and religion, and that society’s duty is to encourage, rather than deny, loving relationships whether straight or gay.

I’m thankful that gays and lesbians want the right to enter into such a flawed institution as marriage. To give them the freedom to marry would remove one more barrier for them and would enhance our society beyond measure. I think that all freedom-loving people who believe in justice and humanity, all of us, would be elevated by the passage of this bill simply because it elevates our humanity.

I also believe that legalizing same-sex marriage would save lives.

How many of us know of suicides that have shattered families, suicides that could have been prevented if only the closeted teenager had felt acceptance instead of fear, love instead of shame, a sense of belonging instead of alienation? Marriage equality would be one less barrier for them, one concrete sign that they are included and valued, and that the right to happiness belongs to everyone, not just to those who fit the biblical definition of traditional marriage.

Every gay and lesbian person I know who is raising children is an exceptional parent, having had to prove themselves by higher, stricter-than-usual standards and screening in the areas of emotional, socio-economic and financial stability. Their children are growing up in stable and loving families. As a heterosexual married woman who is childless by choice, I have nothing but admiration for those who, facing greater barriers than I, place so much value on the freedom I have sometimes taken for granted.

And, ultimately, it comes down to this: Why would anyone oppose someone else’s marriage when it has nothing to do with them?

I testified in favor of marriage equality 20 years ago. I never thought I would have to do it again, that the pursuit of justice for such a fundamental right would take so long. I saw how organized religion poured money into Hawai‘i to deny a part of our community a basic right. Please don’t let it happen again.

For these and many other reasons, I strongly support SB1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Jocelyn Fujii

Jocelyn Fujii
1615 wilder ave

Apt. 606
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Joe O"Mealy
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:46:15 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joe O'Mealy
2410 Cleghorn St
#1702
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Joe Tolbe
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:55:50 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joe Tolbe
480 Kenolio Rd. 13-202
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Joella Speelman
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:49:20 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joella Speelman
137 Kealohilani Street
Kahului, HI 96732

From: John Bickel
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:48:28 PM

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1 Relating to Equality. I am a high school History teacher. I see two big reasons to support this bill. The first is that my gay and lesbian students are often shy to come out. They sometimes accept bullying because they are afraid. They feel inferior. Passing this bill will help make them feel that society does not look down on them. Instead it would give deserved equal rights.

The second reason is one I draw from history. Minority rights should never be left to the whim of the majority. Do not send this to the voters. Instead protect the "equal protection of the laws" promised by the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court has seen the value of this in the Windsor decision. Now make it valid for Hawaii. Pass this bill.

John Bickel
2415 Ala Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: John Heidel
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:02:42 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

As a Christian minister in the islands since 1962, I personally know of the breadth of support for same-sex marriage from religious leaders and lay-people from many faith traditions: Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu. We aren't as organized or vocal as religious people who oppose this bill but we are there in the thousands.

My personal understanding of a loving compassionate God supports the basic right of all loving couples to have the full benefits of marriage.

This freedom is guaranteed by the U. S. constitution and is consistent with religious teachings. The first amendment clearly states that government shall not deny religious freedom and that religion shall not manipulate government. SB1 has language that is congruent with the constitution and every person can follow his or her personal religious beliefs without coercion.

Regarding the argument that same-sex marriage would destroy or harm the family or society, it can easily be documented (recent "expert" testimony notwithstanding) that the serious dangers to family life, marriage and modern culture are found in the areas o f conflicting values, money management and violence - to mention a few.

Thank you for hearing this testimony and for your consideration of this bill.

Rev. Dr. John R. heidel
Minister, United Church of Christ
Former Chaplain, Punahou School
Former President, The interfaith Alliance Hawaii
Member, Christ Church Uniting in Kailua

John Heidel
1341 Manu Mele St.
Kailua, HI 96734

From: John Herberger
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:30:37 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

John Herberger
23 Mauka PL, UnitB
Kula, HI 96790

From: John Mascaro
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:29:58 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am a working psychotherapist in Hawaii helping families who are in need of supportive therapeutic services. I want to marry my partner so that we can continue to live in Hawaii and have the same rights as all married couples. I want to continue to help our families here in Hawaii but if I am not able to marry, I will move to a state that will allow me to have all the protections that marriage provides. Please open your hearts to the call of us who are working members of Hawaii contributing to help make Hawaii strong. Allow us to have the right of marriage.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

John Mascaro
P.O. Box 3256
Honolulu, HI 96801

From: Joi Kai
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:31:58 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

My very BEST friend, is a Gay man. He, and his partner are highly educated individuals, and greatly contribute to society. I am at war with my church who is urging me to fight against marriage equality, but I can't do it. I love my friend too much! Love is Love!

PLEASE consider passing this bill to allow for marriage equality for ALL of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joi Kai
91-1097 Namahoe St.
Unit 4F
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: Jolynn Salomon-Porter
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:57:41 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I have been in a loving, committed relationship for ten years. We have three children and I want them to grow up knowing their parents are married. We also deserve the rights and protections all married couples, families have under the law.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jolynn Salomon-Porter
1005 Hoomau Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Jory Watland
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:08:17 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I have supported the intent of this bill since the 1970's, when the first "fairness" group supporting equality for all was meeting in Pauoa Valley. As an ordained clergy serving in Hawaii since June of 1968, I hope that the Senate will lead the way to fairness, equality, and inclusivity in Hawaii.

Jory Watland, Lutheran Pastor

Jory Watland
3030 Holua Place
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: Justin Miyashiro
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:04:17 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Justin Miyashiro
725 Piikoi St #905
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: Kate Boyles Thompson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1, from a Nurse
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:43:23 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kate Boyles Thompson
350 Aoloa St. Apt. A-218
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Kate Bryant-Greenwood
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:10:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I want to be able to tell my children and grandchildren that our state proudly lead the way in allowing for marriage equality. This fundamental equal rights issue should not be put to popular vote, it should be addressed by our legislators. We, as a state, must send a message to the rest of the country that Hawaii is place that does not discriminate based on sexual orientation. Hawaii has the opportunity to lead the way and we must seize it.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kate Bryant-Greenwood
847 19th Avenue
bryant@hawaii.edu
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Katherine Drury
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:54:18 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Katherine Drury
3009 ala makahala
honolulu, HI 96818

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: kstofocik@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:14:45 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kathleen Stofocik	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I have family members who are gay and friends who are gay. I got married last year to a wonderful man and had the opportunity to share that memorable day with family and friends. I will never forget how incredible it felt to say, in front of my family and close friends, that I choose to spend the rest of my life as a devoted wife. In all the trials and tribulations of everyday life, the grind of daily meetings and work, it is nice to come home to my husband and relax together. It is nice to have someone who wants to hear about my crappy day at work and then pushes me to get to the YMCA to release the stress that that day had built up. My Uncle and Aunt, who have been married over 33 years, wrote in our wedding guestbook that life is full of dull and boring days. But every now and then there are these 10 second highs. Where the fog is lifted and you are beyond happy, you feel excited and nothing at that moment is either dull or boring. Our wedding day was one of those 10 second highs. When our daily life of boring and dull days occur, it is nice to remember our wedding day and why we decided to go through life together as husband and wife. It is nice to be reminded that the person who sleeps next to you, wants to wake up next to you, every single day; even the days where you are just hitting the repeat button. I found someone who wants to be with me for the rest of his life. I had the freedom to marry the man I love, and all adults in Hawaii should have the freedom to marry the person they love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Kathleen Stofocik

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: Kathryn Launert
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:30:16 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I was still in high school, and under 18, the last time this issue was voted on by the public in 1998. Back then I did not have the opportunity to voice my thoughts and values. However, I did have the opportunity to see how hurtful it was to my friends and neighbors when they were denied the right to build a family. I am part of a new generation in Hawaii who has seen the negative effects of inequality and who believes Hawaii should not just support all our citizens, but should be a leader in marriage equality!

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. It is a brave thing to dedicate yourself to one person. It is a deeply personal and important step in connecting a person not just to the one they love, but to their families and their community. It goes without saying that Hawaii is a special place, where we are connected to our neighbors far more than anywhere else. To deny a right to any of Hawaii's Ohana is not just anti Aloha, but harmful to everyone who lives here.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kathryn Launert
91-678 Makalea St
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: Kathy Lukas
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:49:42 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kathy Lukas
91-1005 Hokuimo St
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: kaycee parker
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 12:08:15 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

kaycee parker
PO box 241
Lawai, HI 96765

From: KC Carlberg
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:05:40 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

KC Carlberg
1414 Heulu Street #C
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Kenneth Hays
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:22:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for the same reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

Equal protection must be given to all Hawaii's citizen's in regards to the right to marry.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kenneth Hays
PO Box 894480
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Sen. Clayton Hee
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: FW: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 3:24:26 PM

-----Original Message-----
From: Kevin Cochran [mailto:kcochran2u@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:37 PM
To: All Senators
Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a licensed mental health professional in the State of Hawaii, as well as the son of a gay father, this is a topic that is close to me. I've witnessed the pain of my father who has not been able to marry his partner of 29 years, and I can not think of one good reason why these two loving men should not be able to enjoy the same benefits that are afforded to me because I am straight. Furthermore as a professional I have seen first hand the negative impact that not having the right to marry has on gay and lesbian couples. It's senseless and cruel, and needs to be rectified. I'm requesting that you pass SB1 and add Hawaii to the list of states that are standing up for equality and decency. It is time to show ALL of Hawaii's residents our aloha.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kevin Cochran, MS, LMHC

Kevin Cochran
P.O. Box 551723
Kapaau, HI 96755

From: Kit Grant
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:43:40 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kit Grant
1111 Wilder Ave 14b
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Kristina Jenkins
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong and grateful support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:50:02 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am moved to tears when I think about this opportunity open before us, to make a just and pono choice that will change lives. We all personally know a gay person, or many, who have suffered from unequal treatment and subtle, or not so subtle, discrimination, right here at home. As a straight, recently married woman, I stand for what I believe is a basic right of all people -- to love and provide for the person you choose.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you. Please please please pass this bill to allow marriage equality for all.

Mahalo,
Kristina

Kristina Jenkins
244 Ohana Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Kristina Switzer
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 1:11:03 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kristina Switzer
98-400 Koauka Loop #402
Aiea, Hi 96701
Aiea, HI 96701

From: Kuliaikanu"u Petzoldt
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:11:27 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. As a lifelong Hawaii resident, active voter and someone dissapointed that Hawaii was not the first to take our culture of equality and continue it through marriage rights for all - I beg of you to be on the right side of history. To deny these rights to our citizens is a travesty, and to do so in the name of a religious minority who have protections from participation within the law seems insane. Please don't fall victim to talking points, rather choose to put our state on the right side of history by extending this civil right to all.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kuliaikanu'u Petzoldt
1043 Apokula Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Larry Meacham
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Written Testimony SUPPORTING SB1, Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:46:01 PM

October 24, 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.

The time has come for this bill to pass. There has been a sea change in public opinion on the subject of marriage equality. In 1998, a majority of Hawaii voters were against it, but polls show that today a strong majority would support it. It is not only young people, 80% of whom support marriage rights. Older people such as myself see this as the next logical step in the extension of civil rights in this country.

American history shows the expansion of voting rights from propertied white males at the time of the Revolution, to all men, then women, minorities and 18-years-olds. Similarly. other legal rights such as owning property, signing contracts, the right to sue in court and non-discrimination in school admissions and employment has steadily broadened to include all Americans.

Marriage, which includes hundreds of other rights such as hospital visitations and health care coverage, is too important to allow discrimination, whether the racial discrimination of the past or the sexual preference discrimination of today. The LGBT community cannot be excluded from an institution which promotes personal happiness and social stability. It would be a gross violation of civil rights to allow this to continue.

There are those who disagree, but marriage equality does not infringe on their rights to conduct their personal lives based on their own beliefs. They, in turn should not be able to dictate to others how to conduct their lives. Live and let live.

It's time. Let us join with the other states and countries that have recognized that civil rights apply to everyone. Please pass SB1 and show once again that Hawai'i stands for equality for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony.

From: Laura Brewington
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:50:54 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laura Brewington
445C N. Kainalu Drive
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Laura Corlew
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:24:21 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laura Corlew
3503 Trousseau St.
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Laurie Temple
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 3:26:35 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laurie Temple
1040 Kainui Drive
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Lee Garrow
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:35:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lee Garrow
110 Kaanapali Shores Pl. #504
unit 504
Lahaina, HI 96761

From:	Lee Takagi
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:59:48 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am Mrs. Lee Takagi, a Caucasian woman who has been married to David Takagi, a Japanese man, for the past 42 years. When we were married in California in 1971 there were still anti-miscegenation laws on many law books in southern states. Although declared illegal by the Supreme Court in 1967 these laws were still very much in the hearts and minds of people who feared such racial mixing. For decades we were afraid to even consider a drive through the south out of fear that something would happen to David or to me in retaliation for a white woman marrying a non-white man.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. They don't want to flaunt the fact they are married any more than I do. They simply deserve to legally benefit the same way a heterosexual couple does when it comes to health, pension and survival benefits, as well as tax breaks for being married.

The government is formed of, by and for the people - for ALL people - to pass legislation which will fairly benefit all people. This is a really a CIVIL RIGHTS issue. This bill will right years of wrongful discrimination. It is time to make this most important correction in our laws so that ALL loving, monogamous couples have access to these basic spousal rights.

I urge you to pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mrs. Lee Elizabeth Dye Takagi

Lee Takagi
1833 Fern St
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: Leslie von Arnswaldt
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:53:24 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My partner of thirtytwo years passed away nearly four years ago. Unfortunately, the closest we could get to legal recognition was the Reciprocal Beneficiary agreement. He was a Viet Nam veteran, a Silver Star awardee, and was wounded in that war. If same sex marriage were made legal back in 1998, or anytime since then, I would be receiving Veterans survivorship benefits today.

Please do the right thing, bring marriage equality to our State, and protect the rights afforded all other married couples in America. We are all Americans, and deserve to be treated equally.

Mahalo.

Leslie von Arnswaldt
16-1623 Moho Road
P.O.Box 7740, Hilo HI 96720
Kurtistown, HI 96760

From: Lilian de Mello
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:08:44 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lilian de Mello
4667 Apopo Rd.
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: Linda Rich
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:22:48 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Linda Rich and I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I urge you to decide this issue on the basis of civil rights and not to be swayed by religious arguments. Churches will still have the right to decide not to conduct same sex religious ceremonies The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.It is not the state's job to enforce religious beliefs. The Supreme Court has recognized that.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Linda Rich
3721 Kanaina Ave
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Lisa Veneri
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:51:33 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I've been with my partner for over 20 years We moved back home to the place I was born and raised to be with my ohana and help care for my aging parents. Coming back from the state of California, where marriage would be legal for my partner and I. It makes me extremely sad to come back to my island home where we cherish aloha, yet equality it is not granted to my partner and I and treated as second class citizens. Being native Hawaiian raised by a Portuguese Hawaiian German mother and pure Italian father, I grew up celebrating culture and diversity. I have always been proud of my island home and my roots here until Hawaii legislators voted to take my rights away along with so many other LGBT people. Today I humbly request you correct this wrong and stand on the right side of history by granting civil rights and equality for all. Mahalo Nui Loa for listening.

Aloha,

Lisa Veneri

Lisa Veneri
215 Kawaihae St. #6
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Lois Toyama
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:13:16 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My brother is in a 30+ year committed relationship with his partner. They are solid supporters of our whole family. They should not be denied the rights that we have.

Our daughter and her partner are expecting their first child in April. They should be able to create a family with the same rights and privileges that their straight siblings have.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lois Toyama
4734 Aukai Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Lorena Goya
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:30:51 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lorena Goya
1002 South Kihei Road #102
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Louis Ramirez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:56:57 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I frequent St. Peter and Paul every Sunday morning and they brought up that marriage is between a man and a woman for one sole reason conception. What about the hundreds of children waiting for a family to adopt them? Who is going to love and care for them? We are - the hundreds of gay couples that just want a family of their own. LOVE IS LOVE!

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Louis Ramirez
1634 Makiki St. OFC-104
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Lucas Morgan
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:10:54 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I am heterosexual and am happily married to my wife now for 3 years, and if we are to call ourselves a fair and just society that treats its citizens equally, we need to give this same right to my cousin who is gay, and my many great friends who are gay, and to my wife's aunt who is gay and living with her life-partner in Australia because their relationship wouldn't be well-tolerated here. Laws have a big part to do with perception of the public in the long run. And this in tern has impacts on the self-esteem of those kids who right now are ashamed and full of self-hatred because they get messages from the government and media that they are bad and evil for being naturally attracted to those of the same sex.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lucas Morgan
609 Kumukahi Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Lucia You
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:42:47 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lucia You
767 N. Kalaheo Ave
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Mae Moriwaki
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:13:27 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mae Moriwaki
1043 Kinau Street #301
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: Margaret Mahon
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:41:39 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I have friends and relatives who are waiting to get married. I have been married for 16 years and I have a wonderful family. Families form the backbone of our society and I want all people who want to form couples and families to have the same opportunity and benefits that I take for granted.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Margaret Mahon
2119 Kaloa Way
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Maria Olsen
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:54:06 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. It is not wrong to love someone of the same sex; when you find the one, you've found the one.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Maria Olsen
1748 Huli Street # A
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Marie Mull
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:39:27 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marie Mull
3055 Pualei Cir. #A104
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Marion Sangiuliano
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:33:59 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marion Sangiuliano
1350 S King St. #309
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: Marissa Mendoza
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:15:34 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Furthermore, as a wedding coordinator on Maui, I witness weddings on a daily basis. I can tell you first hand that the love felt and shared during a gay wedding is no different than that shared during a straight wedding. Love is love, plain and simple.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marissa Mendoza
15 E Ku'u Aku Ln. Unit #113
Lahaina, HI 96761

From: Mark Brasher
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1 support for equality and justice in Hawaii
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:27:06 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My two sisters and I grew up in the state of Hawaii, attending public school from kindergarten through 12th grade. We work and pay taxes and have registered and voted in every election since turning 18.

My sisters have been with their partners for many years. One of my sisters can marry her partner but the other sister, who is lesbian, cannot.

This is not equality.

When they file taxes this year, the Federal government will recognize one's partnership, but not the other. This is because Hawaii does not allow same sex couples to marry. This is not just.

Please pass SB1 to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mark Brasher

Mark Brasher
1214 Kina Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Marti Townsend
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:27:36 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marti Townsend
Honolulu
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: martina queenth
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:33:19 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I am the proud parent of an incredibly smart and caring young woman who fell in love and married a wonderful woman this fall in Washington DC. I would have loved to have had the ceremony here. The truth of the matter is that she loves who she loves and they hurt no one. Our new daughter in law is proud to be serving in the US Navy and is anxious to do her duty overseas as a counter terrorist dog handler. The Navy recognizes this marriage, our church recognizes this marriage, our family recognizes this marriage...why not this state of Hawaii?

martina queenth
1435 9th Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

NASW
National Association of Social Workers Hawai'i Chapter

October 23, 2013

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair - Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair and members of the Judiciary and Labor

From: National Association of Social Workers, Hawaii Chapter

Re: Special Session SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights

Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 Time: 10:30 a.m. Location: State Capitol Auditorium

Senator Hee, Chair, Senator Shimabukuro, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor, My name is Marty Oliphant and I am the Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Hawaii Chapter. NASW is in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB 1** which will extend the same rights and responsibilities of same-sex partners in marriages.

The social work profession has consistently fought for social justice, equality, and constitutional protections for Hawaii's most vulnerable individuals and groups. Along with other social justice and civil rights advocates, social workers have played an indispensable role in preserving freedom and ensuring opportunity for all. Social workers believe that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons deserve the same protections and opportunities in their work, family, career and health equal to other members of society.

NASW encourages the adoption of laws that recognize inheritance, insurance, same-sex marriage, child custody, property, and other rights in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender relationships. The Association firmly believes that all federal protections and responsibilities available to legally married people in the United States should be available to people who enter same sex unions (including domestic partnerships, civil unions, and same sex marriages).

Furthermore, NASW promotes equal protection under the law, and strongly supports the full implementation of existing civil rights legislation and its application to women; to people of color; and to gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people. And, because we believe that everyone is entitled to equal opportunity — regardless of age, disability, gender, language, race, religion, or sexual orientation — NASW endorses local, state, and federal policies and programs that give all people equal access to the resources, services, and opportunities that they require.

Approximately nine million adults in the United States—or three percent of the population—identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals. Discrimination and prejudice directed against any person on the basis of sexual orientation, gender or gender identity, whether real or perceived, are damaging to the social, emotional, psychological, physical, and economic well-being of the affected individuals. NASW believes that same-gender couples should be afforded the same respect and rights as other-gender couples. Discrimination and prejudice directed against any group is damaging to the well-being of society as a whole.

NASW strongly supports SB 1. Please pass this bill.

Thank you.

677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 702, Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 521-1787 • FAX: (808) 628-6990 • info@naswhi.org • www.naswhi.org

From: Megan Ikemoto
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:35:22 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Megan Ikemoto
2569 Dole Street #1108B
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Michael Carius
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:43:28 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael Carius
852 Hoalauna Way
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Michael Pellegrino
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:05:07 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael Pellegrino
2600 Pualanai Way 603
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Michelle Galgay
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:33:56 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

My brother and myself have both been in long term relationships with our partners and deserve to be treated with dignity and fairness. Our mom passed away in 2010 and she accepted and loved us unconditionally. My mom brought us both up to treat others with love and acceptance, she was described by many as an exceptional woman. However, is treating people with love and acceptance qualities that should be considered exceptional? I believe these are qualities that should be the standard. My mom would've agreed, how about you?

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michelle Galgay
140 Uwapo Rf
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Michelle Yamashita
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 6:12:35 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My name is Michelle Yamashita, I am a retired veteran of the United States Navy. I served four tours in Afghanistan and Iraq in defending the right's and freedom of the citizens of the United States.

Not having Marriage Equality impacts my family deeply. Since we do not have Marriage equality in Hawaii my 1 year old son can not be put on my federal retirements benefit because of the inequality of Civil Unions. We are not a "Special Interest" we do not have a "Gay Agenda" . We are families that are just looking to have the same rights as all other families in this country.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry, nor should the religious belief systems of some citizens dictate how we craft our laws. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michelle Yamashita
4510 Kuilei St
Kalaheo, HI 96741

From: Miguel Galvez Bravo
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:46:37 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Miguel Galvez Bravo
1522 Bertram st
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Misaki Takabayashi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:26:41 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am in absolute support of SB-1.

The tide has now turned and the scale has tipped on this issue in our state and in our nation. Just as we never reinstated the ban for women to vote after the nation realized the injustice and corrected its own wrong, we will never again deny anyone's right to marry whom they love after this wrong is righted.

Thank you all for allowing this special session to occur. As some folks are pointing out, this session is costing the state quite a bit of money. Let's only do this once and bring in the inevitable future once and for all.

Please vote yes to grant the marriage right for all of your constituents, not just some.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Misaki Takabayashi
Konomanu Rd
Kurtistown, HI 96760

From: MiSuk Lee
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:33:57 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

MiSuk Lee
91-1649 Halolani Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: Moriah Sanchez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:48:16 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

A hundred years ago, people were protesting keeping colored people out of their schools, bathrooms, etc... They look pretty stupid now, don't they? Love is love regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Moriah Sanchez
1539 Liholiho St
Apartment 204
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Ms. Stephanie Fitzpatrick
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:15:17 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

It would have been good to grow up knowing that I could marry the woman of my dreams, as well as being encouraged (and able) to marry the man of my dreams.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ms. Stephanie Fitzpatrick
1545 Nehoa St. #1003
HONOLULU, HI 96822

From: Nancy Aleck
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:40:46 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Equality is a concept that has yet to be put fully into practice or policy. Civil rights cannot and should not be determined by a general voting populous, many of whom are bitterly bigoted and have yet to ripen the concept of equality in their hearts.

Nor should the government be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. This was done in the past with people of different races. The case that changed law was over 45 years ago. This is what one of the plaintiffs, Mildred Loving, said in 2007 on the 40th anniversary of the landmark civil rights decision of the US Supreme Court that invalidated laws prohibiting interracial marriage:

"I believe all Americans, no matter their race, no matter their sex, no mater their sexual orientation, should have that same freedom to marry…I am proud that …my name is on a court case that can help reinforce the love, the commitment, the fairness and the family that so many people… seek in life. I support the freedom to marry for all. That's what Loving, and loving, are all about."

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Nancy Aleck

Nancy Aleck
PO Bos 61212
Honolulu, HI 96839

From: Nancy Kern
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:07:14 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Nancy Kern
1933 Ualakaa Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

From:	Naomi Pualani Abraham
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:17:50 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I have been with my Ku'uipo for over 35 years, and would love to enjoy the freedom of marriage afforded to all others, except same sex couples. Please do the right thing and let your hearts and your na'au tell you that equality for all should supercede prejudice and religious beliefs. As a Native Hawaiian, our Kanaka Maoli have lost so much, please don't let this once in a lifetime opportunity, "til death do we part" slip away. So I ask you again, Please pass SB1, Relating to Equal Rights, you know it's the right thing to do. :)

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Naomi Pualani Abraham
999 Bishop Street
Suite 2700
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Natisha Moreman
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:39:24 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Natisha Moreman
77-409 Puuwai Alii
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From: Newt Chapin
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:24:18 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Get with it people. It's 2013. Some of you are still trying to drag us into the last century where Bible Thumpers had more political power than the rest of the citizenry. Stop listening to crazy people who believe big daddy up in the sky tells them that gays and lesbians are somehow subhuman. We're not. We're regular citizens who pay our taxes and have families with children to support.

It’s time to stop jerking us around. I want equal rights NOW! Do your jobs and get this passed.

For those of you who already believe my co-parent and I should have the right to protect our family with legal marriage, thank you in advance. For those elected representatives who still believe it's OK to oppress gay and lesbian citizens, go ahead and vote that way. Your name will go down in infamy as one of the few elected officials who had to be dragged kicking and screaming into the 21st century. Your descendents will carry the shame of your hateful actions.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Newt Chapin, mother of two.

Newt Chapin
2404 Maile Way
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Pamela Huber
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:31:03 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am a woman. I am keenly aware of what EQUAL looks like and feels like. Only a few years ago, the rights of women had to be affirmed legislatively to pronounce to the citizens of this country that discrimination would no longer be sanctioned.

I am married to a man. I wanted this not because I needed God to sanction my commitment, not because I needed Uncle Sam to sanction my union, but because it is an established social contract in our culture that carries benefits and privileges.

I am a person. If one person is lucky enough to find another person with whom they can find mutual support, love, companionship, and trust, and they desire to be legally recognized as married, that person should not be denied rights and privileges that other persons are offered.

EQUAL PERSON.

Is the government hypocritical, bigoted, or uninformed as to the meaning of EQUAL? Take one minute to reflect upon how you or your parents or grandparents were marginalized and not treated as equals.

You have the opportunity to stand for EQUALITY.

Freedom of religion is guaranteed for all. Freedom from religion is also implied. The bible states a widow must marry her brother-in-law. We do not legislate this practice so please, apply this law EQUALLY.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Pamela Huber
46-024 Puulena Street
Apt. 613
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Pat Villiarimo-Cockett
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:28:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I plan on coming to Oahu to testify. However, here is my testimony so that you can copy it to all the legislators.

Aloha, my name is Patricia Villiarimo-Cockett. I am the mother of 7 children; I also have 7 grandchildren. I came here today from Hana, Maui to share my story. On Aug. 21, 2013, my daughter was married under bright skies and the eyes of God. I was able to witness my daughter dressed beautifully in white, walk down the aisle, embraced by her father as he gave her away; and of course, witnessing my husband cry at his daughter's wedding. I had never seen her happier. We celebrated with some 300+ family and friends. Her fiancé's, 96 year old grandmother came all the way from Oklahoma, along with some 40 others of her family and friends. Her own 86 year old grandparents came from Oahu to bless their union. As in the tradition of Hana, family and friends came together from all over Maui to help in the wedding preparations, to make her day special. It had taken two years in the planning, and some $20,000 was spent, between airfare, vacation rentals, rent-a-cars, food, cake, formal wear, tents and musicians. We took their wedding pictures, paraded around town honking our joy; then at their reception they cut their cake, danced the dollar dance, had their father daughter dance, and threw the bouquet. It was a beautiful wedding, and it was an honor to find out afterwards that my new daughter-in-law was going to take our name; to be a Villiarimo. They were married that day, under the eyes of God, blessed in their union by their grandparents, parents, brother's, sisters, aunties, uncles and friends.

Why is it then that the State of Hawaii, says that they were only civil unionized? They have loved each other for over 12 years, committed that love to each other for the rest of their lives; and yet the State of Hawaii does not want to recognize that commitment as being the same commitment I made to her father. Yes, I have 7 children, three of whom are gay; why is it that the state will allow four of them to marry legally, yet for three of them, the state will only civil unionize them. What the heck is that? It is discrimination. It is not following our Hawaii or US Bill of Rights. Which state that:

(A.2 Rights of the Individual)- All persons are free by nature and are equal in their inherent and inalienable rights. Among these rights are the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Isn't marriage the pursuit of happiness?

It also states that the (A.3 Equality of Rights)- Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the State on account of sex. If you take that phrase literally, which you should, that would also include sexual orientation. Under Hawaii state law, if my transgender child is discriminated against at her work place, she can sue. So why is it then that the state is still discriminating as to whom we call married and whom we call civil unionized. It is wrong, and I will call it like I see it; it is discriminatory and bigoted.

Sincerely, Patricia Villiarimo-Cockett
PO Box 413 Hana, Hi 96713
8082698307

Pat Villiarimo-Cockett
4855 Hana Hwy
Hana, HI 96713

From: Patricia Anger
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:12:45 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Patricia Anger
16-1979 36th street
Po box 1358
Keaau, HI 96749

From: Patricia Blair
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:32:16 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.
As a heterosexual individual I believe:
The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. This basic right is not a threat to anyone!

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Patricia Blair
25 Aulike St
Apt. 426
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Patty Gorski
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:34:30 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Up until recently, my opinion was not based on personal experience. I've been bisexual for all of my mature life, simply able to see the beauty in all, not wanting to limit my life and ability to love. Recently, I've fallen in love with my best friend- a woman. This is the first same sex relationship either of us have ever shared, and it's also been the richest experience of my life; I've never known a love so grand. But we keep our relationship a secret from our community because of the continued stigma of homosexuality. This stigma exists because of the fact that homosexual marriage and acceptance is still "debatable" in the laws of our nation. As a teacher, I should be proud of my love and feel free to express it and demonstrate tolerance and acceptance to my students. But-I'm highly aware of the stigma, the judgement, and the hate crimes that exist because of the fact that our own government creates laws that perpetuate the notion that "gay is bad." I hide my love to protect my reputation as a "respected" member of my community and school. This is a dispicable notion. My government should protect my freedom to love and be loved without judgment. "Gay" should not be an insult my students throw at one another because our government has established the idea that gay people are inferior. They can't even marry.

There is no constitutionally in denying rights to a class of people. That is the definition of discrimination and it is not American. Marriage equality for homosexuals will create equality for homosexuals in all areas of their lives, and increase their acceptance by the American population. This logic is not new- we have discriminated against groups of people historically: native Americans, African Americans, women, Japanese, and now gay people. Laws need to change to ensure equality for all Americans.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don’t turn our backs on family. No member of anyone’s ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Patty Gorski
165 Fraser
11c
L?na'i city, HI 96763

From: Paul Harper-O"Connor
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:00:41 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I strongly urge your support for marriage equality in our state.

This is no longer a moral issue, but a matter of civil rights and intentional discrimination.

The lack of access for same-sex couples in Hawaii is an outright denial of access to federal rights. The recent US Supreme Court ruling have validated this and states are choosing to either acknowledge their obligation of inclusion of same-sex couples in the institution of marriage or await being named in lawsuit challenges that are strongly anticipated to rule by recent rulings as unfounded.

Many in the community remain ignorant to the facts around same-sex marriage and assume that my partner and I are considered “married” under state and federal laws already – as they see us a committed couple; however this has not yet been attained.

Hawaii has floundered on the issue of marriage equality for many years and it is more than time to stand on the right side of the issue.

My partner of over twenty-four years and I DESIRE and DEMAND equal standing in the eyes of the law, as well as having the rights, respect, dignity, and responsibilities as our married friends and families.
I ask you to pass marriage equality in Hawaii NOW and allow our keiki to see that they can have faith in our elected legislators and government officials.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Paul Harper-O'Connor
576 Kuikahi Drive
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: PETER SCHAKTMAN
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:36:30 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Further, it occurs to me that the entire public accomodations controversy can and really ought to be reframed more simply: Religious institutions are free to practice their religion as they see fit. Businesses need to abide by the public accomodations law. Religious institutions, to the extent that they function as businesses, LIKE ALL BUSINESSES, must abide by the law as well. All the rest is really nonsense and a head-on attack on the will of the people (i.e., to outlaw discrimination against protected classes) that many of the opponents of this bill suddenly (and selectively) claim to hold so dear.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

PETER SCHAKTMAN
2047 Nuuanu Ave Apt 1402
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Phil Kinnicutt
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:06:27 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

It is purely and simply a matter of equal rights under the law...nothing more, nothing less.

Aloha,
Phil Kinnicutt
808-254-4534

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Phil Kinnicutt
341 Iliaina Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Philip Steinbacher
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:14:10 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Philip Steinbacher
2110 Kaneka St #182
Lihue, HI 96766

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: rachelpualani@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:13:35 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/24/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Rachel Orange	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha and thank you for attending this special session to address this important issue. I am writing to express my full and unequivocal support for marriage equality. Civil Unions already grant same-sex couples all of the rights, benefits and responsibilities as defined by the State for marriage. Now that the Defense of Marriage Act has been struck down, the logical next step is to allow same-sex marriages so that Federal rights, benefits and responsibilities will apply in Hawaii as well. This is a basic civil rights issue. We have waited long enough. Let's not wait any longer. Do the right thing. Mahalo for your time. Rachel S. Orange Palolo

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Raedean Sanchez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:09:25 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Raedean Sanchez
1539 Liholiho st
apt 204
Honolulu, HI 96822

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Commission on Community Building
Dr. Haʻaheo Guanson

October 27, 2013

Honorable Senator Clayton Hee
Hawaiʻi State Capitol, Room 407
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96813

Testimony on Behalf of
Senate Bill 1
RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

To the Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Senators Clayton Hee, Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee,

Aloha mai kākou.

The Interfaith Alliance Hawai'i supports Senate Bill 1.

As the successor to the Hawaiʻi Council of Churches that was founded in 1927, The Interfaith Alliance Hawaiʻi has been active in seeking social justice, and marriage equality is an area where state and church each hold a place in our social fabric. We therefore have adopted the following statement.

> *The Interfaith Alliance Hawai'i is made up of clergy and lay-leaders representing more than 30 faith-based traditions. Some of our religious institutions perform and recognize marriages for same gender loving couples by officially blessing these unions, while others do so as individuals. Some find it contrary to their beliefs or teachings to perform marriages outside of an opposite-gender paradigm. We find our diversity to be a source of strength.*
>
> *We firmly believe that the state and federal governments have no place in defining the sanctity of some traditions to the exclusion of others, as pertaining to our diverse practices of marriage. For religious institutions, marriage is deeply rooted in the rites of passage and pastoral care according to the moral and ethical teachings of those traditions.*
>
> *We affirm the human dignity and worth of all people, thus we support civil liberties and religious liberties, regardless of affectional orientation and gender identity or expression. We also affirm that civil marriages for same gender-loving couples performed by the state do not endanger any of our religious traditions.*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 1.

Respectfully,

Bishop Stephen Randolph Sykes
President, The Interfaith Alliance Hawaiʻi

20 South Vineyard Boulevard • Honolulu Hawaii 96813-2317
www.interfaithalliancehawaii.org

From: Renae Hamilton
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:34:22 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Renae Hamilton
3094 Elua Street
Lihue, HI 96766

From: Renie Lindley
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:03:43 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Renie Lindley
PO Box 765
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: Rick Velasquez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:41:35 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rick Velasquez
911 Kaipii
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Rob Harper-O"Connor
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:16:33 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The young people of Hawaii, our future, want to live in an advanced society that is free of discrimination and mistreatment of others. That is why they are depending upon you to do what is current and right for now. They are planning on voting out people who are hateful and demeaning toward others, as the people against marriage equality have shown themselves to be. In this issue, you are against us if you are not for us. That is why you ought to support the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Also, we are not a theocracy. People in Hawaii Civil Unions can and will sue for equal protection and access to federal benefits you are denying them by preventing marriage in this state. I ought to know since that is what I will have to do if I must.

I resent having to write this letter at all because I believe you understand fully that the rights of people are meant to be protected by the courts and not put up for voting. We won that right many years ago before it was wrongfully taken away. How awful it has been all these years waiting. Well our time has come with the end of DOMA. I'm certain you understand this and will vote in support of the act unless you only want to placate the opinions and beliefs of backward people who don't care or understand about the needs of others. You may wrongly choose to ignore the concrete realities expressed in the needs of gay people if you personally dislike them, but then you are not doing your job- the job of securing rights, benefits, and needs of your constituents. It is not your job and you were not elected to sit in pompous moral judgement against the needs of a minority and the future dreams of the young generation. Your job is to move us forward, please!

Rob Harper-O'Connor
576 Kuikahi. Drive
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Robert Miyake-Stoner
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:53:24 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing as a United Methodist minister to express my support for SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robert Miyake-Stoner
99-043 Kealakaha Dr.
Aiea, HI 96701

From: Robert Watkins
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:07:03 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.
As a practicing physician,I firmly believe that homosexuals merit the same freedoms and rights as the straight population.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robert Watkins
Pob 63
Hawi, HI 96719

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: robineagleray@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:43:36 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/24/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Robin Hart	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I speak in support of SB 1. I, along with thousands of other Red-Letter Christians in this country, believe that the best path forward is a legal system that respects the rights and responsibilities of all couples, gay or straight, and also respects the religious liberty of faith communities to define marriage consistent with their theology and scriptural understanding. Thank you. Robin Hart

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Ron Gima
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:52:29 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

* * * * * * * * *

I am gay, but do not have a partner, but I have a female cousin who is married (in Wisconsin) to her female partner, and even raise 2 adopted children--a sister and a brother. They have the same ups and downs and challenges as any straight couple does, and maybe more, due to gay couples being naturally in the minority in society. Yet, their isn't a family with more morals, family values, discipline, and most of all LOVE than they have.

So, I hope same-sex partners, here in our Islands, can also soon enjoy the right to marry, and if they so choose, to also be able to raise a family with all the protections and benefits and rights for the sake of THEIR children. (It's not only straight, traditionally married couples who devote themselves, as touted in the current TV ads "For the sake of the children"...it's gay couples as well, just the same!)

It's TIME for same-sex couples (who did NOT arbitrarily choose this lifestyle, who were made by the SAME CREATOR as those professing to speak for "God" against gay marriage)...it's time for us to be given the right, the civil right, to one of the most fundamental areas of life--to marry fully and fairly and happily.

May I add, thank you, Hawai'i Legislature, for this special session...because an issue as basic a civil right as this is, should NOT be left to public opinion, for the masses to decide. It should indeed be decided by those whom we have elected to do what is right, "pono", for the community of these Islands as a whole...by you, who stand for the rights of EVERY citizen of Hawai'i nei, whether in the minority or not.

* * * * * * * * *

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don’t turn our backs on family. No member of anyone’s ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ron Gima

1039 Kekaulike
A-410
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Rosie Roma
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:59:43 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rosie Roma
2591 dole st
F1102
honolulu, HI 96822

From: Ross Uehara-Tilton
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:56:27 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ross Uehara-Tilton
95/269 waikalani drive
C803
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Samuel COX
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:13:02 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Samuel COX
45-090 Namoku st, #1002
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Scott Sorensen
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:17:50 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Scott Sorensen
p.o. box 1858
Koloa, HI 96756

From: Sharon Blanton
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:37:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I had to travel all the way to Massachusetts to marry my wife. The older we get, the more important marriage protection becomes. We hope desperately that marriage equality will be passed here else we may have no choice but to leave our home and move to a state that will honor our commitment.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sharon Blanton
44-044 Kaimalu Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Shaun Campbell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 3:30:06 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

It's a little-known fact that for 24 hours back in 1996, same-sex marriage was legal in Hawai'i. However brief that moment of justice and equality, it was one that sparked the modern movement for equal marriage around the globe that now is embraced by fully 17 countries, including more than a dozen states here in the U.S.

Indeed, Hawai'i has always supported diverse configurations of what comprises "family", from structures of kinship and households of Native Hawaiians to more recent options. Judge Kevin Chang perhaps summed up the familial landscape best in his landmark decision of 1996 in Baehr v. Miike:

"There is diversity in the structure and configuration of families. In Hawaii, and elsewhere, children are being raised by their natural parents, single parents, stepparents, grandparents, adopted parents, half parents, foster parents, gay and lesbian parents, and same-sex couples."

Notwithstanding our unique leadership role in the global equal marriage front, there are those here at home who pander fear and a false morality, insisting that respecting the civil rights of gay and lesbian minorities will deteriorate, rather than strengthen our society. This is factually untrue. In 2004, the American Anthropological Association, the world's largest organization of scientists who study culture, issued this "Statement on Marriage and the Family":

"The results of more than a century of anthropological research on households, kinship relationships, and families, across cultures and through time, provide no support whatsoever for the view that either civilization or viable social orders depend upon marriage as an exclusively heterosexual institution. Rather, anthropological research supports the conclusion that a vast array of family types, including families built upon same-sex partnerships, can contribute to stable and humane societies."

What we need now in Hawai'i to strengthen families of all types is equal marriage for all citizens. The time is ripe for fair treatment. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Shaun Campbell

Shaun Campbell
1911 Kalakaua Avenue, #305
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Shawna Koch
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:34:24 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shawna Koch
68311 olohio st
Waialua, HI 96791

From: Shelley Steele
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:30:34 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shelley Steele
3955 Roundtop Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From:	Sina Sison
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 6:19:52 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sina Sison
677 ala moana blvd
Honolulu, HI 96813

From:	Soo Sun Choe
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:08:03 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Soo Sun Choe
3632 Keaolele Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: sussman@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:26:54 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Stephen Sussman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This should be passed to promote equal rights for minorities in Hawaii. It does not threaten other marriages, nor does it threaten religious freedom. This is not a religious marriage but a civil one. Religions are not being forced to marry those they don't want to. I also see arguments that same sex marriage harms children. They quote a recent study by sociologist Mark Regnerus to justify this. But the Regnerus study has nothing to do with same sex marriage. It studied 2 groups. The first group included almost exclusively children whose parents separated, and one parent was in a same sex relationship at any time, no matter how brief, during the child's rearing. It did not distinguish as to which parent actually raised the child. The second group included only children raised by opposite sex parents that stayed together. Not surprisingly, the children from stable relationships did better. The official national organization representing sociologists like Mr. Regnerus is the American Sociological Association. In a brief to the Supreme Court in favor of same sex marriage they write that the Regnerus study "did not specifically examine children raised by same-sex parents, and provides no support for the conclusions that same-sex parents are inferior parents or that the children of same-sex parents experience worse outcomes." "If any conclusion can be reached from Regnerus' study, it is that family stability is predictive of child well-being." They then write "Scholarly consensus is clear: children of same sex-parents fare just as well as children of opposite-sex parents" and that the Regnerus study has been "mischaracterized" by opponents of same-sex marriage in a deceitful effort to justify their opposition. The American Pediatric Association, the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychology Association, and the American Sociological Association (ASA) have all examined this issue and have all concluded children are not harmed and have all come out in favor of same sex marriage. Another argument against it I see is that marriage is about procreation, and same sex couples can't procreate. If that is the case, why do we let postmenopausal women marry? Why do we let someone who had a hysterectomy, tubes tied, or a vasectomy get married? Why don't we forcibly dissolve marriages that don't produce children within a certain period of time? Why doesn't someone need to pass a fertility test before marriage? The last argument against it is that the people should vote. But putting minority rights up for popular vote is the wrong

solution. If the USA did that, women likely still couldn't vote and African-Americans in the South would still have separate schools, separate water fountains, and would still sit in the back of the bus. Yours truly, Stephen Sussman, MD Haiku, HI.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: Steve Jacques
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 12:20:29 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. And for me and my partner, it is a personal issue. We have been together for 24 years and 2 months. Last year we entered into a civil union, but as I am getting closer to retirement, many of the federal benefits denied us are weighing heavy on our minds. We have paid taxes to this country all our adult lives, lived in this great state for more than 20 years, and want our ashes scattered here when we die. All we are asking for is equality.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Steve Jacques
742 Maluiniu Ave
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Steve Leeper
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:25:14 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Steve Leeper
173 kulipuu
kihei, HI 96753

From: Steven Vannatta
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:47:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Steven Vannatta
300 Wai Nani Way APT 1517
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: kyle.kajihiro@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:26:52 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kyle Kajihiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I STRONGLY SUPPORT Marriage Equality. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

October 25, 2013

RE: TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN HAWAII sb1_

TO: Senator Clayton Hee
Chair Judiciary and Labor Committee Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407 415 S.
Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

FROM: Sue Stone
75 Mano Drive
Kula, HI 96790

Dear Mr. Hee,

I am writing to voice my support of the Marriage Equality bill currently under consideration in the special session beginning October 28, 2013.

I am in favor of this bill because:

1. This would generate revenue for the state of Hawaii for mainland folks wanting Hawaii to host their destination wedding and for residents waiting for you to do the right thing.

2. If this bill is not passed, our state would likely endure the time, energy and money that would be required to defend litigation similar to other states are currently experiencing. This would not generate revenue, it would cost our state monies that mostly likely would be wasted now that same gender couples are entitled to federal benefits.

3. I am sixty years old, and long to be able to wed my long-time partner right here in the state we love. We could spend our dollars elsewhere, but that is not what we want to do, unless we have to if this bill is not passed.

4. Arguments opposed to this bill are wearisome, old, and not factually or scripturally based. I am an Episcopalian, and at last notice, this means I'm just as Christian as the next person saying I'm not. And it's mostly people calling themselves Christians in opposition. This is about the law, not religion.

Thank you for your time and attention and for doing the right thing for Hawaii. Do not let this go to a popular vote.

From: Kathryn Bradley
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:19:15 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I grew up in the South in a very religious family. Homosexuality was considered a sin.
I finished college and left home to become a PBS art director. One of the young people I worked with was a man named Mark.
We, over time, became friends.
He confided in me that he was gay - but that took about two years.
Long story short - Mark has been my closest male friend for 30 years. I've seen his struggles with parents that thought shock therapy might "mend his ways".
I've seen him become a very successful professional and I've seen him fall in love.
My own first marriage ended in divorce. Mark and his partner have been together - through good times and some pretty bad times - for 20 years.
In short - they are the happiest married couple I know.

They live in California and were legally married last month.
They love Hawaii and come here for three weeks every year. This is where they will retire and this is where they wanted to be married - but couldn't.

This is a civil rights issue-not a religious issue.
Please live aloha - and make it possible for any loving, committed couple to marry in Hawaii.
Thank you for you help.
Kathryn Bradley

Kathryn Bradley
1952 Kui Place

Honolulu, HI 96819

From: Barbara George
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:19:27 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I write as a heterosexual woman who has been married. This status should be available to any couple that wishes to enter into a legal union. There is absolutely no threat to heterosexuals in providing the opportunity for same-sex couples. It is the just thing to do.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Barbara George
58-126B Iwia Place
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: Kelsie Polston
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:25:55 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kelsie Polston
2465 ala wai blvd apt 102
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Edward Kakos
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:34:15 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Edward Kakos
75-6009 Ali'i Dr
W2
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From: Brian Devera
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:38:11 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in very strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, no one turns their back on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

As a gay man born and raised in Hawaii, I wish to marry my fiancé there.
We live in New York and considered marrying in Hawaii but because it would be a civil union we opted for a wedding here instead where gay marriage is recognized. The wedding is next year but hopefully, when marriage equality passes in Hawaii, we will be able to have another ceremony there as well.

My fiancé and his enormous family is from the east coast. They wanted us to marry in Hawaii so they would finally have a good reason to visit. With your support this can still become a reality.

And what an ideal reality it would be for the two us marry there, move there, and raise a family there.

Though I live in New York, my family still lives in Hawaii. I visit as often as possible. I care deeply for my home state. Anything that happens there affects me no matter where I am.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Brian Devera
94-1502 Pokeo St.
Waipahu, HI 96797

From: Dianne Gerard
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:38:23 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dianne Gerard
P.O.Box 453
Lawai, HI 96765

From: Shannon Furomoto
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:39:54 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shannon Furomoto
12 Waipaa Lane
42-102
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Ken Staton
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:52:28 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ken Staton
P.O. Box 491
Volcano, HI 96785

From: Kealahou Alika
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:54:11 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha e Chair Hee a me Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I was born and raised in Kona in 1949. I was born to a mother who was Hawaiian-Portuguese and father who was Japanese.

I have seven siblings - four of whom are half brothers and three of whom are half sisters. Among the seven, two were married then divorced and remarried, two remain in their first marriages, two are single, and one is in a committed same-gender relationship. One side of the family grew up Buddhist; the other Christian.

I have served in the Christian ministry for almost 35 years - both as a lay person and as as an ordained clergy member of the United Church of Christ. I share with others the conviction that the freedom to marry the person you love is a basic right that should not be denied to anyone.

I know there are divergent theological points of view within our churches about "same-sex" marriage. That is why I think it is important that the broader discussion be about "same-gender" marriages.

I realize some will quibble about the terms - "sex" and "gender." But I also realize that the church has had a history of difficulty dealing with sex - period.

In the end I am convinced that the debate is not about what we believe (theology) but about how we feel (emotional). My hope and prayer is that whatever our mana'o may be that we will come to appreciate the truth that love is what makes a family.

Mahalo for your courage.

Me ke aloha o ke Akua,

The Rev. Kealahou C. Alika

Kealahou Alika
2035 Pakolu St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Martha Alyson Danford
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:54:57 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Martha Alyson Danford
39 Maluhia Drive
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Darrin Kaneshiro
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:59:56 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Darrin Kaneshiro
P.O. Box 89502
Honolulu, HI 96830

From: Emily Danford
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:00:17 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

If you are going to base it on religion, you need to remove all the civil benefits that married couples get and make divorce illegal.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Emily Danford
19-4067 Kilauea Pl.
Volcano, HI 96785

From: James Vivian
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:00:39 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

James Vivian
91-215 Niuhiwa Place
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: Peter Lee
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:08:32 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Peter Lee
4132C Napali Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Puakea Nogelmeier
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:20:06 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB1.

If the government is to recognize marriage as a legal state with various benefits, tax arrangements and responsibilities, that social and legal commitment should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as others – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, no one should be delegated to lesser status under the law because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None should be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Puakea Nogelmeier
2667 Anuu Place
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: VINCENT KIMURA
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:29:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

VINCENT KIMURA
1711 Nanea St
HONOLULU, HI 96826

From: Melissa Matsubara
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:48:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Melissa Matsubara
155 Paoakalani ave. #803
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Jean Evans
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:49:50 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing this in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Other states and countries have passed such legislation extending equal rights in marriage. Hawaii has always taken the lead in assuring equal protections and this is the time to do so again.

I urge you to pass this important bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jean Evans
99-1669 Hoapono Pl.
Aiea, HI 96701

From: Tatjana Johnson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:00:02 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tatjana Johnson
95-654 Naholoholo Street
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Tiffany Dalida
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:12:07 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tiffany Dalida
94-446 Hamau st.
WAIPAHU, HI 96797

From: Robert Bidwell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:12:47 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Robert Bidwell and I am submitting this testimony in strong and heartfelt support of Senate Bill 1. I thank you for taking the time to consider this legislation which, if enacted, will bring our Hawai`i `ohana closer together in understanding and inclusiveness to the benefit of thousands of families, and their children, across our state. I submit my testimony as a pediatrician, as a father, and as a gay man who has made Hawai`i his home for over 30 years.

As a pediatrician and adolescent medicine physician at Kapi`olani Medical Center for Women and Children since the 1980s, I have worked with hundreds of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth. I have worked with many more in my former position as Associate Professor of Pediatrics (and now Associate Clinical Professor) at the University of Hawai`i John A. Burns School of Medicine, fulfilling Judiciary and Office of Youth Service (DHS) contracts to provide health care and counseling to youth residing at the Juvenile Detention Facility in Kapolei and the Hawai`i Youth Correctional Facility in Kailua. One of my most important roles is to provide LGBT youth in my practice with hope for a happy and healthy future, nurtured in great measure by the presence of loving, supportive and committed relationships in their lives. As I have come to understand through my decades of pediatric practice in Hawai`i, relationships that are based on love and commitment and that are officially recognized and supported by the broader Hawai`i community are relationships that are strengthened because of that recognition and celebration. Committed, loving and nurturing relationships are important not only for the two individuals in that relationship, but also for the children they might raise together, and for our Hawai`i `ohana as a whole.

As a gay father, this legislation has important implications for both me and my son, who I love so much and whose safety and well-being are my most important responsibilities in life. The protection and support that comes from the official recognition of same-sex marriage has been well-documented in the testimony you have received from many individuals and families in support of this legislation. It has also been well-documented in the literature of my profession. It is for this reason that in March 2013, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) issued its official policy statement supporting same-sex civil marriage entitled “Promoting the Well-being of Children Whose Parents are Lesbian or Gay”, stating that the AAP “supports pediatrician advocacy for public policies that help all children and their parents, regardless of sexual orientation, build and maintain strong, stable and healthy families that are able to meet the needs of their children.”

As individuals who care deeply about the people of Hawai`i, I urge each of you to vote in favor of SB 1. With your support for equality for all of Hawai`i’s people, we can make our state an even better place to live, work, and raise our children. What a visionary and meaningful legacy to have.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Bidwell, M.D

Robert Bidwell
6264 Keokea Pl.

Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Taja Chalker
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:36:02 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Taja Chalker
1419 Mamalu st
Honolulu, HI 96817

From:	Lois Perrin
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Testimony of Guy Nakatani in Strong Support of S.B.1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:38:33 AM
Attachments:	Marriage Bill Testimony.pdf

Please see the attached testimony in strong support of S.B. 1. Thank you.

From: Elaine Heiby
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Same sex marriage SUPPORT
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:38:56 AM

Dear Honorable Legislators

I have been a resident of Hawaii for over 32 years and during that time I have been with the faculty in the Department of Psychology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, as well as a Hawaii Licensed Psychologist.

My training and work in psychology leaves me quite aware of the debilitating effects of discrimination in any form.

Denial of the choice to marry is discrimination, plain and simple.

I believe you know in the depth of your hearts that equality for marriage is the right thing to do.

I urge you to do the right thing.

Mahalo for your kind consideration of this opinion.

Sincerely,

Elaine M. Heiby, Ph.D.
2542 Date St., Apt. 702
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
heiby@hawaii.edu

From: Nancy Friedrich
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:43:16 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Nancy Friedrich
245-A Ulana St
makawao, HI 96768

From: Michael Moore
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:48:40 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am a 68 year old gay male for whom the ability to marry is of little importance as far as any personal aspirations i might have regarding that institution are concerned. simply put, i don't want to get married! the majority of people (gay and straight), however, overwhelmingly do want to get married to a committed partner. many, in fact, want to have children as well. Civil unions give the appearance to others that these gay parents (and consequently their children!) aren't as "good" as their children's fellow classmates and friends at school.

I believe that if the gay parents of these children are allowed to marry it can only strengthen society by giving these children a happy, stable, nurturing home, thus bringing forth more well-adjusted children. This would be in sharp contrast to the other end of the spectrum - children who have been brought up to believe they aren't as good as others and consequently relate to the world from their tension around that issue. This scenario would only create conflict for these children - conflict in their interpersonal relationships as well as conflict with society in general.

Marriage for same sex couples has many other benefits too numerous to mention in this brief testimony, the economic boost to tourism being only one. But when you get down to the nitty gritty of it, this issue is most importantly about basic human rights - the right to marry the person you love, create a family and find some happiness in a world that is not always a very happy place.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael Moore
77-447 Ho'omaluhia Pl
KAILUA KONA, HI 96740

From: Michael Moore
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:48:48 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am a 68 year old gay male for whom the ability to marry is of little importance as far as any personal aspirations i might have regarding that institution are concerned. simply put, i don't want to get married! the majority of people (gay and straight), however, overwhelmingly do want to get married to a committed partner. many, in fact, want to have children as well. Civil unions give the appearance to others that these gay parents (and consequently their children!) aren't as "good" as their children's fellow classmates and friends at school.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael Moore
77-447 Ho'omaluhia Pl
KAILUA KONA, HI 96740

From: Samantha Robinson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:50:20 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Samantha Robinson
92-1038 Makakilo dr
18
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: Susan Werner
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:08:31 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I believe that this is a civil rights issue, not a social issue. Currently, we are denying a whole segment of our citizens the same rights that are available to others.

Two people who decide to permanently join their lives together should have the same legal rights, universally, regardless of gender. They, and their families, deserve the same protection under the law as any other couple.

I also think that passage of the bill would have a very positive impact on our economy. Hawaii is the dream wedding and/or honeymoon destination in the U.S. and opening it up to more couples would greatly increase the numbers of visitors.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Susan Werner
2923 E Lelehuna Pl
Haiku, HI 96708

From: Melissa Egusa
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:07:34 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

As the mother of three adult children, one of whom is gay, I want my son to have the same legal right of marriage to a person he loves, respects, and cherishes...just the same as his siblings.

There are so many pressing issues in our state right now - it is sad the issue that can bring love, harmony, and joy to so many is causing such a chasm.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Melissa Egusa
4028 Omao Road
Koloa, HI 96756

From: Kimberly Zehner
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:04:09 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kimberly Zehner
3054 Ala Poha Place
#810
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: kathy mociun
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:02:13 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

kathy mociun
59-589A Ke Iki Rd
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: Gail Gnazzo
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Support for Marriage Equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:58:05 AM

Honorable Senate President
Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives
Chairmen and Members

Aloha,

I am writing to strongly urge your vote in favor of marriage equality for all citizens of the State of Hawaii. First, it is only right from a civil rights perspective. One group of people should not be denied the rights others of us enjoy.

I have been friends with a number of same sex partners for over thirty years. One of these had been a couple for forty years. They were as devoted and loving as any hetero sexual couple. They were responsible, reliable, contributing members of our community involved in numerous volunteer community activities and contributing materially to many more non-profit and civic organizations, including those that served students, families, children and youth. They sat on several boards and government committees.on the state and county level.

Several years ago one of them was diagnosed with malignant myeloma an incurable form of cancer. His partner cared for him through several rounds of chemotherapy and remissions during that time just as heterosexual partners do with love and commitment. Three weeks ago he died. Regretfully he died without ever being able to call his life partner his husband..

The Legislature can right that wrong for all committed same sex couples. Those worried for heterosexual marriage should look inward and work on their own individually and as a society..

Sincerely,

Gail P. Gnazzo, MSSW, LSW .

s

From: Isayas Mandrial
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:57:28 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Isayas Mandrial
439 Keoniana St. #1202
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Alan Murakami
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:43:43 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. The US Supreme Court has signaled what is should have been apparent - intentional discrimination is illegal pure and simple. We in Hawai'i should have seized the chance to be the model for the nation when our Supreme Court told us such bans were unconstitutional. Instead , we decided to amend our constitution to prop up a bad if not legally flawed idea in 1998.

Stop this nonsense already. All people should have the same rights. Each new generation since that amendment passed don't share that view and political change has been sweeping the US each year since as older generations pass on. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Alan Murakami
916D Auloa Road
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Hassie Zitnik
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:33:08 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Hassie Zitnik
2144 Kahookele Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Emily Koenig
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:30:09 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Emily Koenig
140 Uwapo Rd
12-101
kihei, HI 96753

From: Mark Koppel
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: In support of SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:26:56 AM

Honorable Committee Members:

Aloha. My name is Mark Koppel. I live on Hawaii Island in Hakalau. I wish I could be here person but, unfortunately, I cannot.

I am writing in support of SB1, to provide Equal Marriage for all in Hawai'i.

First, let me emphasize this a Civil Rights bill. We do not have referendums on people's rights. In Hawai'i, most of us, from the wonderful original Hawai'ans, to Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Blacks etc. have been subjected to discrimination based solely on one characteristic of theirs.

The same thing has happened to Lesbians and Gays. One characteristic has led to severe discrimination against them. The Supreme Court has ruled that this discrimination is unconstitutional.

Let me answer what my Opponents will say.

First, "Marriage between a man and a woman is God's law". We do not govern our state or country by "God's law". And whose God? The Judeo-Christian God, the Buddhist God, the Shinto God? In the Bible, many men have multiple wives and concubines. Is this what we want? This argument fails.

Second, Marriage between a man and a woman follows "natural law". Once again, what is "natural law"? In nature, many animals have what could be called same-sex relations. There are stories, for example, about two male penguins mating for life and raising chicks. The argument falls.

Third, Marriage is for procreation. One of the worst arguments of all. Do we prevent sterile people from marrying? Old people? People who say they don't want to have children? Do we end marriages that have not produced children? The argument fails.

Fourth, Homosexuality is a choice. As almost any Lesbian or Gay person can tell you, they knew what they were from childhood. In spite of years of trying to change, Lesbians and Gays remain that way. The so-called Ex-Gay movement is completely discredited by former members, the American Psychiatric Associaton, the American Psychological Association, etc. etc. Two states, New Jersey and California have passed laws banning so-called Ex-Gay therapy. The argument fails.

Fifth, Equal Marriage will destroy America. This would be news to the people of the fifteen states that have Equal Marriage. There have been no changes in marriage, divorce, etc. The end of Don't Ask Don't Tell has not negatively affected the Military at all. The only change is Lesbians and Gays and their *children* can enjoy the benefits everyone does. The argument fails.

Sixth, There will be a slippery slope of people marrying their siblings, their pets, a bridge in France, multiple partners, etc. This is false. Why does this not happen now? Because we restrict marriage to two people who hopefully love each other. Nothing changes under Equal Marriage. Since Equal Marriage has begun, not one of these absurd prophecies has come true. Nor will they. The argument fails.

Seventh, Equal Marriage will harm religion. False. The laws of our state and country provide for the separation of church and state. No church can be forced to marry anyone. Many churches right now refuse to marry interfaith couples. This is their right. Some refuse to marry divorced couples. This is their right. If any church refuses to marry two men or two women, this is their right. No religion has been harmed in any sense. The argument fails.

Eighth, Equal Marriage will require services such as photographers and florists to work for Same-Sex couples. What opponents do not say is that this is *already* true. Our anti-discrimination laws prevent any business that serves the public from discriminating against any group now. Nothing will change. The argument fails.

I believe these points answer any possible objections to Equal Marriage. Our state has a wonderful tradition of equal opportunity for all. This is our chance to show what Aloha really means. We can lead the way for other people. All this law does is provide the opportunity for two people and, in many cases, their children, to receive equal protection under the law. They can visit their spouse in the hospital and control their care when needed; they can provide for their families at death; they can pay taxes equal to other couples; they can receive any of the famous 1,100 federal benefits married couples receive.

Civil Unions do not provide these. Only marriage does.

Who could possibly be against this?

Equal Marriage is overdue.

I know our legislature will pass SB1 and bring us once again to the forefront of Equality in the nation.

Mahalo

Mark A. Koppel
P O Box 283
Hakalau, HI

From: Liza Garcia-Mitchell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:26:44 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Liza Garcia-Mitchell
Lipoa pl
Aiea, HI 96701

From: Darice Unick
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:23:25 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Darice Unick
Kahili
Keaau, HI 96749

From: RHOADY LEE
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:25:28 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in support of SB 1.

to marry the person one loves is a basic freedom that should not be denied anyone. couples marry for the same reasons-–to make a lifetime commitment of love and fidelity to each other, regardless of sex.
Hawaii has a tradition of accepting everyone, differences and all, into the family. 'Ohana' is most important. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

my partner and i have been in a committed relationship for thirty years; earlier this year, we traveled to Washington state to have our commitment made 'legitimate' in marriage. Government does not belong in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us wants to be told it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

RHOADY LEE
PO BOX 2080
KAMUELA, HI 96743

From: Hope Braceros
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:03:31 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hope Braceros
yellowpaddler808@yahoo.com
121 Hookano Street
Hilo, HI 96720

Sent from my iPhone

From: Steven Leong
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:01:33 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

All straight people produces Gay children. Government employees to local fishermen. Hawaiian, Japanese, Chinese, Haole, Samoan, Filipino, Korean, Portuguese ... etc.

As long as these Gay children are being born, THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY, will go on.

The opposition, will continue to fight this equality.

Money, time, and effort on both sides will be poured into the pot, which will mean less of this for the poor, impoverished, and homeless here.

Eventually, the younger generation will win out, and same sex marriage will become the norm.

Why keep wasting EVERYONE'S TIME AND MONEY, and pass it already. It will happen eventually.

It's time we ALL work TOGETHER, Gay and straight, on solutions to our local problems.

As to forcing religious institutions, and businesses to do our life long commitment ceremonies, would a Christian as a Muslim Imam to sanction their marriage?

Make a positive benchmark for Hawaii's history. Vote on "happiness" rather than "fear".

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Steven Leong
98-1277 Kaahumanu St. PP363
Aiea, HI 96701

From: camille yoshiko copeland
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:58:32 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

camille yoshiko copeland
pob 223086
princeville, HI 96722

From: Kim Donohue
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:41:51 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kim Donohue
PO Box 64
Waimea, HI 96796

From: Leinati Matautia
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:59:22 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Leinati Matautia
1503 Punahou St, 2D
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Janet Makua
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:27:19 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Janet Makua
7761 Kula Highway
Kula, HI Hawaii

From: Janet Makua
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:27:31 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Janet Makua
7761 Kula Highway
Kula, HI Hawaii

From: Kristina Lopez-mata
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:35:58 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kristina Lopez-mata
3395 akala dr
Kihei, HI 96753

From: katherine saluzzo
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:52:32 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

katherine saluzzo
860 Malulani st
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Angie Evans
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:53:50 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Angie Evans
Ala kipa st
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: Angelica Floyd
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:57:41 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Angelica Floyd
951 puuloa st
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: tylrr england
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:00:46 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

tylrr england
1659 marine core base
kaneohe, HI 9607

From: Courtney Cesnik
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:04:45 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Courtney Cesnik
1700 Ala Moana Blvd #1203
Honolulu, HI 77429

From: kim possible
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:06:40 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

kim possible
ala moana blvd
honolulu, HI 96815

From: Makana O ke kai
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:03:45 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I moved to Hawai'i to attend BYUH in 1985. I fell in love with the Aloha Spirit. I soon discovered that I was a member of a Hate Organization whose modus operandi was to destroy human diversity and which particularly hated me for being born gay, a natural and healthy human condition! I suffered greatly for many decades because of the ubiquitious, intolerant bigots in Hawai'i. I am one of two of about 30 gay people at BYUH in 1985 who have not committed suicide! I am grateful to have lived. I escaped to Mau'i for many years and found myself. I married a Jewish man with 5 children the first day that California restored Marriage Equality in 2013! We vowed NEVER to return to our beloved Hawai'i until our sacred and beautiful marriage is recognized there! We feel that New Zealand and French Polynesia have Marriage Equality and it is an embarrassment for the other point on the Polynesian Triangle to perpetually stand against this basic Civil Right! I have truly suffered greatly for being a resident of Hawai'i for 28 years! I speak fluent Hawai'ian, Japanese and other languages andhave assimulated into Local culture. HOWEVER, it is am embarrassment for me to be associated with th ehipocrisy of ALOHA! There is no Aloha until all people are received and treated Equally! I have been working hard to discourage people from visiting the Islands due to the hypocrisy as well. I actually nearly did take my own life the day Governor Lingle vetoedCivil Unions, a step which Hawai'i was extremely late in adaolpting! I feel soembarassed to be associated with Islands of Hatred! I hope and preay that my husband and our 5 kids, all of whom adore me can retorn to Hawai'i an dlive a free and Joyous life as EQUAL citizens! Due to the economy we cannot find a renter for our home there, yet we pay income and property tax to the state of Hawai'i. This is inspite of the fact that Hawai'i has an open policy of hatred towards our family! PLEASE CHANGE THIS DISDAINFUL POLICY and recognize Immediately our marriage! Hawai'i COULD have been a leader in extending this basic human right. Now by a very stretch Hawai'i can do the RIGHT THING & STAND ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HISTORY before they are ORDERED in an embarrassing manner to so do. It is inevitable that ALL STATES WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT AND PERFORM ALL MARRIAGES but for dignity, and to fix the illness of Aloha in the Islands it is essential that HAWAI'I PASS MARRIAGE EQUALOTY N.O.W. (no other way....) Please do not hesitate to give me and my family our civil rights. Mahalo loa.

Makana O ke kai
1750 Kalakaua Ave
203-3253
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: Richard Mindar
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:43:10 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Richard Mindar
1645 Ala Wai Blvd
603
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Ariel Canosa
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:43:44 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I want to be able to look at my fiancée and say, "I love Hawaii, the place that I was born and raised, not just for the Ohana and the Aloha but for the freedom to know that we can get married here among all of those we love."

Why not make history for Hawaii and show the next generation and the next one after that, that Hawaii is not just paradise but also a place for freedom.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ariel Canosa
639 Piikoi St
Apt 5
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: Holly Broman
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1 - Imagine.
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:43:44 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Aloha. I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Passing this bill will be what is Pono - to finish what was started 20 years ago. It is time for Hawaii to stand up and take care of all of its People, like it had decided to in 1993 with Baehr v. Lewin.

Imagine what a world this would be if we had made the right decision back then - if we had gone the direction of the heart. Countless loving couples could have been married, and countless widows would have had the same rights upon their partner's deaths as opposite-sex couples do.

Countless youth would have grown up not knowing what bullying is - on either side of that bullying. Imagine how many brilliant people have perished because of the mindset that Gay is not equal - it is lesser than.

Inequality has no place in this world, and especially not in Hawaii, where Ohana is everyone. It is time to re-imagine this state to reflect this, and that all are valuable. All are equal.

It is time for us to not only imagine what we could be by passing this bill - an example to the rest of the country of what Aloha means - but to also imagine what it means if we do not pass this bill. What messages will we tell our Keiki and Ohana by saying there are those that are separate and that it's acceptable to make people outcasts for something as basic as who they love? How many more people will we allow to take their own lives because of the shame from both inside and out that they feel? What kind of future do we give our State of Aloha?

We have come full-circle now to pass marriage equality for all Hawaii Ohana. Let us not move backwards in this. It is time for us to move forward and truly Live Aloha.

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify, and for your time.

Holly Broman
719A Maluniu Ave
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Dustin Ebesu
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:54:07 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dustin Ebesu
92-573 Akaawa St.
Kapolei, HI 96707

Dear Chairman Hee and members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee. My name is Dustin Ebesu. Thank you for this opportunity to express strong support for SB1, relating to Marriage Equality.

I am speaking on behalf of my partner. He and I have a committed gay relationship of 30 years. We are very fortunate to live here in Hawaii. The spirit of aloha and respect for diversity has always allowed for many cultures to co-exist. My partner and I have the love and respect of many friends and our families. We both are self-employed in successful businesses. It is in this spirit of love and mutual respect that we request your vote to pass Marriage Equality for the State of Hawaii.

We have not committed to reciprocal beneficiary or civil union status because it is not the same as marriage. My partner and I have joint finances, bills, loans and a mortgage. We also have joint financial plans for retirement and long term care. We enjoy most of the freedoms and happiness of most other couples. But we do not have full recognition of our relationship. I strongly feel that marriage with equality on the state and federal level would be beneficial to my relationship and our financial security. I want my partner to have authority to govern my power of attorney, advanced medical directive or make decisions on my behalf should I be unable to speak for myself. Upon my demise, I do not want to impose taxes on my surviving partner as if my estate was inherited.

Since Marriage Equality bill SB1 calls for a separation of church and state, there is no reason for churches to fear threats to their freedom of religion. No church should be threatened by a marriage of two individuals.

We are all different, and yet straight or gay, we all have the same needs and desires. Everyone deserves the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In Hawai`i we say, Aloha Kakou. Please vote yes, and express true aloha for everyone.

Yours truly,

Dustin Ebesu

Dustin Ebesu
92-573 Akaawa St.
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: Ann Egleston
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:20:45 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ann Egleston
PO Box 61124
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Daniel Bissler
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:26:18 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Daniel Bissler
303 Waipalani Rd
Haiku, HI 96708

From: joel pedro
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:49:00 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

joel pedro
814 bannister st apr 5
honlulu, HI 96819

From: reich deguzman
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:50:09 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

reich deguzman
3003 ala napuaa place #218
honolulu, HI 96818

From: Gabriella Fox
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:51:58 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gabriella Fox
2341 date street
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: Caleb Pham
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:50:45 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Caleb Pham
Ala Wai Blv
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: crystal kenyon
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:53:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

crystal kenyon
95-227 waikallaini drive
honolulu, HI 96789

From: Sarah Connor
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:53:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sarah Connor
827 Kinau St
apt 802
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: raeden ramoran
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:56:37 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

raeden ramoran
725 gulick ave
honolulu, HI 96819

From: Jazmine A
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:57:19 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

"Let tomorrow's future be today's dream of equality!"

Jazmine A
99-752 Aliipoe Dr
Aiea, HI 96701

From: Ralph Porcell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:31:45 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

In my life I felt shame and held myself back from growing as a person. At first I was taught to hate myself and feel shame. Much later on in my life when I became more aware of the truth. That I was a good person with no reason to feel shame or self hate. Even then I had to live most of my life in a world where it was legal to hate me. To say that I am less somehow. Discrimination did not include me. Even GOD was said to hate me.

I can't imagine that there is any reason in the world you would accept living in a world under such conditions. Why should I?

Change this now. Not for me. My life has already almost been lived. Do it for millions of American gay boys and girls that will go through what I went through if you don't.

Don't let history show that Hawaii was one of the last places to be equal. The ALOHA state should not have to think about whether fairness and equality are right. That would be a shame!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ralph Porcell
959-A Kupulau Drive
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Dustin Withrow
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:32:37 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dustin Withrow
2421 tusitala 1901
honolulu, HI 96815

From: laura marquart-wason
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:34:16 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

laura marquart-wason
91-1081 Hanaloa St
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: Kanaloa Schrader
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:36:19 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kanaloa Schrader
1717 AlaWai blvd. #405
honolulu, HI 96815

From: Michelle Johnson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:39:01 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michelle Johnson
Waianae
Hawaii, HI 96792

From: Michael McPherson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:43:17 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael McPherson
801 Ala Nioi PL
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: shannon smith
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:44:58 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

shannon smith
91-209 puni place
ewa beach, HI 96706

From: Sarah McCrystal
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:45:03 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sarah McCrystal
45-623 puohala St
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Kristina Pietrofere
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:46:09 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kristina Pietrofere
1503A Fox Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: Kristina Pietrofere
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:46:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kristina Pietrofere
1503A Fox Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: Steven Songstad
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB No 1 Support
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:06:00 PM

I write as a resident of Maui. I have been a resident of Hawai`i since I was a teenager. I am 67 now. I strongly support SB 1 and for he same reason oppose HB. No 5. I have rarely submitted testimony to the legislature, however the campaign against same sex marriage has been outrageous in its blatant willingness to lie to the public. Nearly every issue that they have raised was put to the test in litigation in the Federal Court in California. In that case each claim was demonstrably proved to be false. When they had the opportunity to prove each of their claims that failed. As this legislature probably recalls the group opposing same sex marriage could not substantiate any of their claims they made to support their claims. It is not because I care one way or the other if gay people marry rather it is because I do care that all people share equal protection under the law regardless of their gender or sexual orientation. It is also because I am so offended by the disingenuous false campaign the group opposing equal rights is waging in our state.

Thank you,

Steven BoothSongstad
190 Hau`oli Street #304
Wailuku, Maui, Hawai`i 96793
808.283.3585
sbsongstad@yahoo.com

From: Tracey Lamb
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:08:58 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tracey Lamb
5333 Likini St #2008
Holnolulu, HI 96818

From: Jayde Dayondon
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:14:24 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jayde Dayondon
2706 Booth Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96813

From:	Shazi Usman
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 11:18:52 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shazi Usman
P.O. Box 105732
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Grace Himmelsbach
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:19:52 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Grace Himmelsbach
19 pamala pl apt503
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Grace Himmelsbach
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:20:00 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Grace Himmelsbach
19 pamala pl apt503
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Susan Vanhorn
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:21:06 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Susan Vanhorn
425 ena rd 597C
HNL, HI 96815

From: Gayle Haraki
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:25:22 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gayle Haraki
2136 Wilson Street
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: matthew rosa
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:28:57 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

matthew rosa
3331 duval st. #a
honolulu, HI 96815

From: natalee chung
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:29:48 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

natalee chung
98-1120 komo mai drice
pearl city, HI 96782

From: KATHERINE AKERBERG
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:17:08 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. and of the many gay couples I have known in my life - mostly those in So. Cal They were doctors, dentists, tech and teachers. A few died of aids in the early 90s but I remember them and their struggles. I support them in memory and in requesting that the right thing be done for their sisters and brothers at this time - equality please.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

KATHERINE AKERBERG
HC2 BOX 6872
KEAAU, HI 96749

From: Emily Bedient
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:17:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Emily Bedient
1464 molehu drive
honolulu, HI 96818

From:	Emily Bedient
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 10:17:57 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Emily Bedient
1464 molehu drive
honolulu, HI 96818

From: Camille Yago
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:18:16 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Camille Yago
1112 Kinau St
#908
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: Scott Buchanan
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:19:21 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Scott Buchanan
1212 Kinau St Apt #1804
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: Pamela Berry
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:21:23 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Pamela Berry
95-310 Kaloapau st #116
Mililani, HI 96789

From: nancy wilder
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:24:33 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

nancy wilder
1545 kalakaua ave 1006
honolulu, HI 96826

From:	Phyllis Kia
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 10:29:34 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Phyllis Kia
91-1039 Kelau Street
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: brittany warner
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:31:11 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

brittany warner
322 aoloa st #304
kailua, HI 96734

From: Laura Ramirez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:31:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laura Ramirez
3013 Moreell Cir
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: Joe Dipaolis
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:32:19 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joe Dipaolis
2465 Ala Wai Blvd
#502
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: james reed
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:32:23 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

james reed
2465 ala wai blvd #502
honolulu, HI 96815

From: kristen honeycutt
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:34:40 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

kristen honeycutt
3152 moreell drive
3152n moreell drive
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: Amelia Dubberly
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:36:04 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Amelia Dubberly
350 Aoloa Street
Apt A228
Kailua, HI 96734

From:	Melissa Fuller
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 10:36:56 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Melissa Fuller
87-2109 Pakeke St
Waianae, HI 96792

From: danellie rivera
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:37:59 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

danellie rivera
44-291E Kaneohe Bay Drive
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Eleanore Crowe
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:03:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Eleanore Crowe
30 Alanui Pl
Kula, HI 96790

From: Ray Takai
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:05:59 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ray Takai
2212 Aloha Dr
Apt D
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Kevin Kaneshiro
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:09:59 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kevin Kaneshiro
2465 Ala Wai Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Walter Enriquez, Jr.
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:10:05 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Walter Enriquez, Jr.
87-412 E Kulaaupuni Street
Waianae, HI 96792

From: Frank Lassise Jr
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:10:09 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

On a personal note, I am a Maui resident, Married to my (same sex) husband of more than 5 years and we will be adopting a son in December. Our son and our Family deserve the equal dignity and rights that would be afforded any other married couple and I strongly urge you to make marriage equality the law in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Frank Lassise Jr
96 Alena Place
Kihei, HI 96753

From:	Emery Love
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 10:10:41 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Emery Love
94-1196 Eleu St.
Waipahu, HI 96797

From: Sydney Deal
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:11:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I have always known that the freedom to love and have that love be honored through marriage is fundamental and true. Please join the many other states that have politically acknowledged what so many Americans know to be justice: Same sex couples must have the same rights and be awarded the same freedoms.

Majolica nui loa.

Sydney Deal
Po 10866
Hilo, HI 96721

From: carl francis
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:14:07 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

carl francis
2464 Prince Edward St.
1609
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: britney jones
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:14:18 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

britney jones
98-1950 kaahumana st unit f
pearl city, HI 96782

From: Mapuana Oxilles
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:14:23 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mapuana Oxilles
1995 Pauoa #G St
Honolulu, HI 96813

From:	Ilene Haraki
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 10:15:57 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am an Evangelical Christian who is in strong support of SB1. I believe in justice for all with all meaning all.

By denying the right to marry to all is unfair and unjust. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples are the same as heterosexual couples who desire to pledge their lives together in a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's citizens.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ilene Haraki
2136 Wilson St.
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: Joan Tillich
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:48:33 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joan Tillich
1217 Mona st
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: robert ortiz
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:49:32 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

robert ortiz
2256 kuhio ave
honolulu, HI 96815

From: John Baessler
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:50:10 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

John Baessler
430 Kaiolu
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: aaron bronson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:50:58 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

aaron bronson
801 dillignham blvd
3rd floor
honolulu, HI 96817

From: Diana Parker
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:52:39 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Diana Parker
1720 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: william nespor
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:53:14 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

william nespor
1450 Young St. 2501
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: Dorene Lum
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:55:06 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dorene Lum
POBox17206
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Lisa Martin
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:57:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lisa Martin
1508 B Lanikila Ave
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: joseph villarreal
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:57:24 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

joseph villarreal
1467 Uluhala Pl
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Rev. Rosemary Cuccia
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:57:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a Christian woman I am writing in strong support of SB 1. all people deserve to have the right to share their lives together in a marriage state. Marriage to me is commitment. If the church so desires to see it differently then that is part of the dogma and belief system of their religion. Marriage has nothing to do with Gender in my opinion. I am an ordained interdenominational minister who has performed both weddings and civil unions in the state of Hawaii. I strongly support Equal rights For same gender Couples who choose to live their life in a committed loving relationship. The legislature needs to Make sure that their decision is not to be based on a religious belief system. Do not rob humanity of it's God given right to be treated the same as any individual in a committed relationship we call marriage.

Please support The bill as I do. Do not leave it up to the public vote. We voted you into office And those others were appointed to their office For the state of Hawaii As representatives for all of us and most especially the many who choose to live a life in the same sex relationship

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.
The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rev. Rosemary Cuccia
Po box 8410
Honolulu, HI 96830

From: alizabeth wong dock
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:01:31 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

alizabeth wong dock
Nu Place Apt. A
honolulu, HI 96817

From: natasha vaughan
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:01:40 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.
I want to be able to marry the woman I LOVE!

natasha vaughan
255o kuhio ave
apt 1105
honolulu, HI 96815

From: theresa burton
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:02:27 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

theresa burton
2550 kuhio ave
apt 1105
honolulu, HI 96815

From: SUE FELT
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:42:28 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

LET'S REMEMBER THAT THOSE THAT HAVE A RELIGIOUS ISSUE WITH MARRIAGE OF SAME SEX COUPLE HAVE NO PLACE IN THIS ARGUMENT. Separation of church and state is essential for our freedom. Those who say that "gay marriage" threatens marriage have never been able to provide a cogent reason or explanation for how or why that could be the case.

There are those who desire this to be a ballot issue....what would have been the outcome if racial discrimination had been a state-by-state "ballot issue?"

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify from a 70-year old "straight Grandma who believes in equality for all.

SUE FELT
73-1104 Mahilani Drive
Mahilani Drive
Kailua Kona,, HI 96740

From: Douglas Smith
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:42:29 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Douglas Smith
1916 Manoa Rd
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Kristine Kaneichi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:44:53 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kristine Kaneichi
803 coolidge st
apt 2
honolulu, HI 96826

From: Emma Hewett
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:45:24 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Emma Hewett
46-265 William Henry Rd.
Apt B-2
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Antonio Orozco
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:45:43 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Antonio Orozco
1916 Manoa Rd
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Hannah Miyamoto
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:47:52 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I have been a lawyer for 20 years, and part of that was spent helping women with children who were victims of domestic abuse. I will never forget one case in which the woman escaped her abusive husband, abandoned her home, car, and children--since she could do more for her kids alive than dead. Two years later, she rebuilt her life with a much nicer man, and married him. I helped her get her children back.

That was a great experience, but what has always haunted me is what would have happened to her--and her children-- if she had fallen in love with a woman. We need civil marriage because we need to protect the children of same-sex couples. Love does not need government protection, but children do.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Hannah Miyamoto
1067 Alakea St., 4th Floor
Ohana Justice Center
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: tawney stephens
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:48:01 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

tawney stephens
134 kapahulua
honolulu, HI 98615

From: Brittany Anderson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:29:21 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Brittany Anderson
41-836 Ala Koa St.
Waimanalo, HI 96795

From: Aziem Kamal
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:30:22 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aziem Kamal
1561 Wilhelmina Rise
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: jessica bartolome
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:33:20 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

jessica bartolome
1717 violet st
hon, HI 96819

From: Louise Simrell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:35:25 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.
It is a simple matter of equality - it is not a complex issue. People with prejudices see it as complicated when equality is not complicated at all. Some of us are old enough to remember when inter-racial marriage was not allowed...
The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Louise Simrell
PO Box 888
Waialua, HI 96791

From: tammy cabalar
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:36:48 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

tammy cabalar
1707 kewalo street
#6
honolulu, HI 96822

From: april oclinaria
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:38:18 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

april oclinaria
1832 citron street
#401
honolulu, HI 96826

From: Terri Lee
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:38:58 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

This country was founded on the basic premise of separation of church & government. If you don't wart a gay wedding, don't have one. I have been with my partner 10 years now. We just moved here from California, this is where we plan on retiring. & enjoying the last half of our lives.

Please pass this bill to allow me to marry the love of my life. Our marriage hurts no one, affects no one, it does not destroy "marriage" in any sense of the word. It just gives us validation & equal & fair rights afforded to all.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Terri Lee
99 nokekula loop
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Hannah Miyamoto
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:39:35 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Hannah Miyamoto
1067 Alakea St., 4th floor
Ohana Justice Center
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Brian Borell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:39:53 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Brian Borell
1561 Wilhelmina Rise
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Heather Havey
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:41:01 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I would love to get married one day to someone that I love. This would be a marriage based in love and care, just like other existing marriages. I have dreamed of this my entire life, and I believe strongly that it is a human right to be able to legally express love and care for someone whom I love.

It has been heartbreaking to be discriminated against my entire life so far, and this gesture of equality would pave the way also for greater respect for diverse peoples. This would help the mental health of the entire population because it would help to decrease hatred and discrimination over time.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Heather Havey
445 Seaside Avenue
#1605
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Valerie Lopez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:41:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Valerie Lopez
1628 Poki Street
Apt. 209
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Valerie Lopez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:41:53 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Valerie Lopez
1628 Poki Street
Apt. 209
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: christopher Hrycko
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:41:58 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

christopher Hrycko
222 Liliuokalani ave
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: tom carpenter
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:42:05 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

tom carpenter
1212 punahou
honolulu, HI 96826

From: Eric Voorhies
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:15:13 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Eric Voorhies
6212 Olohena
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: Kenn Liburd
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:15:13 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kenn Liburd
454 Namahana St.
Apt #402
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Melanie Moore
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:17:20 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I am a straight married woman with three children, and I assure you legalizing gay marriage can only strengthen the institution of marriage.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Melanie Moore
46-394 Nahewai Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Benjamin Martin
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:19:03 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Benjamin Martin
45-732 Paepuu ST
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Michael Formby
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:19:58 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Place:Capitol Auditorium

Re: Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I write in strong support of SB 1.

It absolutely astounds me that residents of this Aloha State cannot understand that the freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone nor put to a popular vote.

Gay and lesbian couples want to marry for the same reasons as straight couples – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. It's just that simple. Nothing more, nothing less.

With President Obama, a Hawaii son, believing all couples who are legally married deserve respect and equal treatment under the law, and his Administration working to implement the Supreme Court's Windsor ruling swiftly and smoothly, it would be shameful for the Aloha State to follow the misguided position of those in the community, like Mr. Hochberg and Bishop Silva, who oppose equal treatment under the law.

Please act swiftly to pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael Formby
4132C Napali Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Shayna Lonoae"a Alexander
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:19:59 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shayna Lonoae'a Alexander
758 Hoomoana St.
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: Lindsey Ono
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:23:09 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. As a Hawaiian, I recognize the need for a strong family unit. This bill supports family regardless of definition.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lindsey Ono
1723 Bertram Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Damaris Barrientos
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:25:33 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Damaris Barrientos
711 Kamuela Ave
#304
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Helene Watson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:28:56 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Helene Watson
3676 Sierra Drive
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Dwayne Thomas
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:54:50 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dwayne Thomas
85-174 Farrington Hwy.
#326
Waianae, HI 96792

From: Ashley Takeuchi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:56:56 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Love is love. No matter your sexuality. People need to have open minds and not discriminate. That is not what the people of Hawaii are about. By not passing this law, we are teaching our children that people aren't equal. You can't help who you fall in love with. Everyone should have the right to marry the person that they love.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ashley Takeuchi
743 C North Judd Street
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: David Stout
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:58:52 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Stout
PO Box 6278
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: David Stout
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:58:53 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Stout
PO Box 6278
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: Bobby Clement
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:59:17 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bobby Clement
PO Box 6278
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: B.A. McClintock
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:59:54 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

This bill is not about religion but about children, equality, and decency. Religions have the right to define their beliefs to the people who follow them. But in this country we have been separatists from when this country was founded. People came here because they wanted religion separated from their governing bodies. This is basic history. Please let us not forget this.

The religions pushing for not passing this bill do NOT represent me or my Christian family. Please know there are far more out here who support this than do not. And, we will stand with you to help everyone have equality in our country.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

B.A. McClintock
Disabled-email only
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Edie Rose
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:03:33 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Edie Rose
2035 Nu Place
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Joy Chisholm
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:03:58 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joy Chisholm
4694 Kua Rd.
Kalaheo, HI 96741

From: Robert Andrews
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:05:38 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robert Andrews
98-1032 Moanalua Rd
Honolulu, HI 96701

From: Lisa Russell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:06:44 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lisa Russell
95-927 paikauhale st
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Susan Melchert
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:13:29 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person I love is a basic freedom that i wish i had because my siblings have it and feel it should not be denied to anyone. Lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love and a transfer of property upon death.

In Hawaii, we celebrate our families; as i wish my family were her to be my social support, as well. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. It feels like bullying every time i see it in the news and picketing on the streets.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. I wish we had a separation of church and state. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Susan Melchert
98-1426 Kaahumanu St
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: Eli Strawn
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:13:34 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Eli Strawn
454 Namahana St.
Apt #402
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: ernie rabago
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:40:31 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

ernie rabago
1821 lipeepee st
honolulu, HI 96815

From: Vince M Okada
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:40:34 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I'm gay, and I should deserve my right to get married to the one whom I really love. I know there are some opposing groups... but I'd like to ask them... so do I need to lie to myself? or I need to understand that I don't have a right to get married with the one I truly love? I don't think so. They can believe what they want... but based on their belief, I don't want them to oppress my freedom.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Vince M Okada
625 Iolani Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: marco mendiola
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:41:30 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

marco mendiola
603 isenberg st
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: edgar mendiola
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:42:45 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

edgar mendiola
eisenberg
honolulu, HI 96826

From: Kenneth Seekins
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:47:48 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. As a practicing member of Palolo Zen Center, I believe our government should not cause unnecessary suffering by continuing this discrimination.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kenneth Seekins
94-1503 Waipio Uka St C107
Waipahu, HI 96797

From:	Christopher ignacio
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 8:48:13 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Christopher ignacio
1332 Ala Kapuna St.
Honolulu, HI 96719

From: wesley orr
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:49:11 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

wesley orr
3161 Ala Ilima Street
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: Bridget Scott
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:49:49 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Years ago interracial marriage was illegal in some states. Lets not go backward but instead move forward respecting all people.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bridget Scott
1325 wilder ave
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: anthony westhoff
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:50:03 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

anthony westhoff
1655 liholiho st
apt 402
honolulu, HI 96822

From: marvin hardcastle
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:51:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

marvin hardcastle
3161 ala ilima st.
honolulu, HI 96818

From: Xyla Miguel
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:54:20 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Xyla Miguel
94-1010 Awalua Street
Waipahu, HI 97697

From: nirmaliz pena
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:21:37 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

nirmaliz pena
905-e 16th ave
honolulu, HI 96814

From: Dean Ossowski
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:22:49 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dean Ossowski
1332 Ala Kapuna St. apt 403
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: nirmaliz pena
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:23:36 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

nirmaliz pena
905-e 16th ave
honolulu, HI 96814

From: Judith Pyle
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:23:39 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Judith Pyle
4155 Akulikuli Ter.
Honolulu, HI 96816

From:	Keiko Gonzalez
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 8:23:43 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Keiko Gonzalez
46-305 Nahewai St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: RJ Fernandez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:23:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

RJ Fernandez
91-118 Nohoihoewa Way
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: travis kim
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:24:29 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

travis kim
1720 Ala Moana Blvd. Apt. C-105
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Logan Okita
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:24:48 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

As a teacher, I see the value and importance of a strong family every day. A family can be made up of biological parents, adopted parents, foster parents, or stepparents, but the most important part of a family is that the children feel that they are loved, valued, and supported. You don't have to be a traditional family to provide children with these things and in my career I've seen many traditional families that do not provide children with the love and support that they need and deserve.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Logan Okita
1914 10th Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: christine Everington
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:25:09 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

christine Everington
1720 ala moana blvd. apt c-105
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Trudy and Al Wong
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:33:14 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I grew up in the Jim Crow south. Coming to Hawai'i for the first time in 1967, I found more than the 'paradise' on the tourist brochures. I found a place where people were essentially 'color blind.' Everyone was greeted and treated with respect and equality.

When I made Hawai'i my home in 1975, I again felt that I had found a place that truly understood the meaning of equality.

I am disheartened to think that we have turned a blind eye to ALL being created equally. In 1993 Justice Levinson started the ball rolling towards marriage equality in our state. We had the potential to be the leaders on this issue, instead we have waited and debated until people are confused as to why this should be an issue at all! I urge the esteemed members of our legislature to make this wrong right, but voting to again make all our residents feel that they are equally respected in this land of aloha.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

With aloha,
Trudy Schandler-Wong
Manoa
O'ahu, Hawai'i

Trudy and Al Wong
2639 Ka"aipu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96822

From:	Carolann Biederman
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 7:27:26 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chairman Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am grateful that you are taking the time in special session to consider this important equality issue.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone.
Please pass this bill NOW to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's people.

Let your leadership shine by demonstrating aloha in action.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Carolann Biederman
44-391 Nilu Street #4
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Karl Christian Alcover
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:29:09 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Karl Christian Alcover
1555 kalaepaa drive
honolulu, HI 96819

From: Shannon Blosser
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:32:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shannon Blosser
36 waikalani pl
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Shannon Blosser
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:33:03 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shannon Blosser
36 waikalani pl
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Bob Cook
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1support with a twist
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:33:53 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Please make this the law of our land.

I find it strange that those who say this will damage the family and deprive children of either a mother or a father still support divorce laws that do exactly this. I would prefer to be a child of an any sex couple who loved me and each other, than have the divorce court tear my family part by allowing my parents to legally destroy my family, and in some cases toss me aside. We need a pro-family government, however the families chose to define that. They are marrying each other, they are not marrying the government.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. And telling us which families can be legally destroyed and which cannot be legally created. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bob Cook
581 Kamoku Street #3802
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: Helen Wagner
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:43:05 PM

I had a brother that past away from HIV virus in 1989 when little was known about the virus. I was consoled by knowing he had love with a partner, in his life, and had someone and did not have to go through the illness alone. When asked by family @ would he go to heaven if he was gay"? I responded that was between him and the God of his understanding and not for me to be his judge. I believe everyone can serve God's purpose in some way.
Respectfully submitted

Helen Wagner
Po box 628
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Aaron Nakahara
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:43:10 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The world is perpetually changing and with it the acceptability of different paradigms are, too, changing. We live in times of transition and I truly believe that for one of the few times since I've become an adult that our Hawaii government has a chance to truly do something revolutionary, something that can only be described as "right".

In the past, society used to have very loud voices dictating the rights, dare I say the humanity of those with dark skin or a different look. The voices would command with absolution that someone of different skin or creed or even sex could not and should not have the same, equal rights as the rest of that society. But times change and even with loud, raucous opposition, one by one we knocked down those voices who screamed "blacks are NOT equal to whites!" and "women are NOT equal to men!". Once more it is time to silence the voices that call for immortalizing inequality, that call for the perpetuation of a second class of citizen.

Sometimes even if the majority of people say they don't want something, sometimes they're still wrong. The voices were strong in saying that blacks and women and minorities who were not white and Christian did not belong, should not be equal, just as those voices right at this moment shout out saying that marriage is sacred, between only a man and a women.

They are half right. It is sacred, but that *right* does not belong to some, it belongs to *all*, not just to those who believe in God or Allah or Buddha, none of that matters since that *right* belongs to *all people* of *all creeds*. It should never matter who you love, just so long as you love.

I was always taught that everyone should have a chance to go to school, work hard, try their best, fall in love and be with the person they love for the rest of their lives and have that bond recognized by our state and our nation just as it's recognized for every other bond that is just as sacred.

This is something that transcends those who want to maintain the status quo. This is something the transcends simply voting one way or another to keep a job. This is the recognition that no matter who you are, where you come from, what you do, what you've done, that you should be able to be with whomever you want to be with.

We are one people, regardless of who we are as individuals, we are one people and we all deserve the same rights.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aaron Nakahara
135 Kulalani Circle
Kula, HI 96790

From: Daphne Barbee-Wooten
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:46:32 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1, the freedom to marry without discrimination.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Same sex couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

No one – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. Love is an equalizer. We need more love than bigotry, fear and hatred.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.
This is a civil rights matter. The right to marry should be guaranteed to all regardless of sexual orientation, race, color,religion or national origin.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Daphne Barbee-Wooten
1188 Bishop 1909
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Kim Springer
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:56:26 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I'm asking you to pass this bill, not for me, but for my family members and friends who are gay. They should have the same privileges and rights as anyone else. Remember - EVERYONE has someone gay in their family. That person just may not come out of the closet yet because they lack family support. If you had a loved one who you know are gay, wouldn't you want this for them? I know I do.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kim Springer
1722 Kaiao Street
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Gina Hunter
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:03:26 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gina Hunter
75-5726 Mamalahoa Hwy
Holualoa, HI 96725

From: Sandra Sato
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:12:22 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sandra Sato
213 S. Wilder Road
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Lia Mariano
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:12:59 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lia Mariano
225 Koa St
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From:	Rev. Dr. Suzanne Schiller
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 8:16:08 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rev. Dr. Suzanne Schiller
79-980 Kealaola st.
Kealakekua, HI 96750

From: Whitney Thomas
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:18:31 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Whitney Thomas
75-5726 Mamalahoa Hwy.
Holualoa, HI 96725

From: Daniel Rokovitz
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:21:09 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Daniel Rokovitz
RR 2, Box 3916
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: Gary Saito
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:42:39 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gary Saito
98-1827C Kaahumanu St.
Aiea, HI 96701

From: Greg Hansen
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:46:08 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Greg Hansen
1111 Kaupakalua Rd
Haiku, HI 96708

From: Dorcie Sakuma
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:48:05 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dorcie Sakuma
720 Kapiolani Blvd. 302
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Dennis Tynan
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:49:48 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dennis Tynan
84-688 Ala Mahiku Street
Unit #167C
Waianae, HI 96792

From: Katie Ozawa
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:56:15 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Katie Ozawa
Kanamee
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Denise Grayzell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:58:53 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Denise Grayzell
PO Box 893983
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Alex Young
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:00:33 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Alex Young
95-1031 Kaapeha St
279
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Hannah Aiwohi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:00:58 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Hannah Aiwohi
95 miner pl
Makawao, HI 96768

From:	Elaine Nishime
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 7:03:28 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

What is it that love between two people is outlawed and assaualt rifles,,,and killing children at school is okay?

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Elaine Nishime
4918 Waa Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: Robin Cone-Murakami
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:11:50 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robin Cone-Murakami
3746 Anuhea St
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Reka Domokos
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:49:30 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Reka Domokos
1551 Puolani Street
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: Mary Gross
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:53:23 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I have been married for 26 yrs in an opposite sex marriage; same sex marriage is in no way a threat to my marriage or any other opposite sex marriage. Finding someone to spend your life with, to love, share and succeed in this life is difficult. It should not only be for opposite sex partners. Any two adults who want to commit to each other should have the right to marry or not to marry. It should be a person's choice not the government's.

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mary Gross
PO Box 1002
4605 Kuli Road
Kalaheo, HI 96741

From: Bob Nakata
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:06:49 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bob Nakata
47-417 Lulani St
Kaneohe, HI 96-744

From: Alex Oshiro
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:12:19 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Alex Oshiro
1920 Kahakai Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96814

From:	Ralph Stevens
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 6:14:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ralph Stevens
91-1221 Kama'aha ave, Unit 604
Kapolei, HI 96707

From:	Hilary Sholin
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 6:14:39 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

Furthermore, I would hate to see Hawaii's gay and lesbian couples move out of state simply because they cannot live the life they dream of. Other states have done the right thing and leagalized gay marriage. If we are truly the land of Aloha we would allow our citizens to make life choices for themselves.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Hilary Sholin
3518 Hinahina St Apt A
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Julie Uyeno-Pidot
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:29:58 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Julie Uyeno-Pidot
3626 Crater Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Dian Hermes
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: I AM IN STRONG SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY!
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:31:21 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I AM IN STRONG SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY!

I am writing, urging you to support marriage for gay and lesbian couples in Hawaii. I believe that all loving and committed couples should be treated with equal rights.

I am standing up today specifically for my friends David and Danny for whom I recently gave birth (as a surrogate) to their son. Although they were married legally in Connecticut, they would like to have their marriage recognized and honored here in Hawaii where their son, Paul Kekoa, was born. Paul deserves to know that Hawaii, his birth state, believes and supports the love of his family.

I teach music in the public schools here in Hawaii. A subject that demands one understands the differences in the world. How boring would life be if we had only one genre of music? One of the great things about being a teacher here in Hawaii is diversity. There are so many different faiths, cultures and beliefs that truly make this place as beautiful as the rainbow. I am not to judge any of my students worth on their nature, which makes them who they are.

As this legislation is coming up, I am not asking that you change your moral views, for I would not want you to ask me to change mine- but instead I am asking you to understand and allow others to live their lives in happiness.

Mahalo for your kind consideration of our
wonderful and beautiful family.

Dian Athena Hermes
1050 Kinau Street #1207
Honolulu, HI 96814
dian_athena@hotmail.com
808-428-7608

Dian Hermes
1050 Kinau Street #1207
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: Sue Stone
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:33:53 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sue Stone
75 Mano Dr
kula, HI 96790

From: BOB SMOLIK
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:34:46 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. Religion discriminates enough. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

BOB SMOLIK
98-1038 MOANALUA RD
AIEA, HI 96701

From: Emily Gualtieri
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:12:38 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I have been married for over 34 years and believe that my gay and lesbian friends should have the same rights and freedoms that my husband and I enjoy. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Emily Gualtieri
P. O. Box 777
Honaunau, HI 96726

From: Christopher Santos
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:12:50 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.
I believe this is a matter of civil liberties, this is not a religious issue and it's only the churches who are against this issue. Churches need to stay out of Politics , it's in the constitution. We can not put human equality rights up to a vote, Marriage is for everyone.

Christopher Santos
826 15th Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

From:	Craig Tennant
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 5:13:55 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

We've written several times. In a nut shell, we're a lucky couple, together 24 quick years. It's near humiliating to be pleading now to be treated "normal".
To all who are helping, Thank you. To all opposed, please understand that you do NOT understand and so logically you should follow the lead of those who do meaning Our governor and other knowing legislators. VOTE FOR OUR FREEDOM

Craig Tennant
P.O.Box 382
Laupahoehoe, HI 96764

From: Denise Rupert
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:21:20 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Denise Rupert
860 Halekauwial
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Mary Williamson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Kauai support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:21:24 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha Sen. Kouchi, Chair Hee, Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to support SB 1.

A former coworker -- a person with a spouse, 2 kids, 2 dogs and a cat, a crockpot, a minivan, and a "traditional" suburban lifestyle -- used to ask "why are they so threatened by our June & June Cleaver lifestyle?"
Exactly! I fail to see how allowing my same-gender couple friends and coworkers to have the same protections of legal marriage that I enjoy would weaken my own marriage, or the "institution" in general. The legal and tax aspects of my marriage have nothing to do with religion or commitment or the miracle of lasting love.
It is time to give everyone -- believers or athiests, gay or straight, "traditional" or not -- equal protections under the law. Marriage will be strengthened because
more people in our community will enjoy the same rights. And anyone in a successful relationship knows the importance of equality
and tolerance.

Please pass this bill.
Thank you for considering this testimony.

Mary Williamson
4489 Papalina Road
unit 455
Kalaheo, HI 96741

From: Virginia Bennett
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:24:59 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am heterosexual, but I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

What many legislators seem to forget is the strong
opposition in our national Constitution against the interference of religions into the affairs of state. Sexual preference is something one is BORN WITH!! It is a NATURAL PHENOMENON!! Whether or not one's personal religious beliefs tell you that homosexuality is a sin, that should have no influence upon you as legislators in granting civil rights to couples of the same sex, who want to enjoy all of the privileges of marriage, which the state grants.
The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Virginia Bennett
1201 Wilder Ave.
honolulu, HI 96822

From: Bonnie McMullen
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:30:36 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bonnie McMullen
Keahole Street
#2502
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Noah Souza
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:30:45 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

50 years from now, we will look back in shame and disgust at the way LGBT individuals were treated. just like those who fought for civil rights in the 60`s, we were attacked and ridiculed for standing up for what we know is right. so please stand on the right side of history.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Noah Souza
92-1519 Allinui Drive Apt 12F
Kapolei, HI 96707

From:	Christine Wakuzawa
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 5:31:32 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Christine Wakuzawa
47-105 Nukupuu Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Kathy Edwards
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:35:16 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

My partner and I got legally married in Massachusetts almost 3 years ago. We would love to see our marriage accepted here in the state that we live in and love.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kathy Edwards
45-850 Lunana Pl. #D
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: William Ouellette
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:49:45 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

William Ouellette
1212 Nuuanu Ave.
Apt. 1108
Honolulu, HI 97817

From: Hannah Finazzo-Krueger
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:49:56 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Hannah Finazzo-Krueger
7070 kahuna rd
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: Malia Finazzo-Krueger
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:54:25 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Malia Finazzo-Krueger
7070 Kahuna Rd
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: Angie Durgan
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:53:07 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Angie Durgan
160 Keoneki Rd
Kehei, HI 96753

From: Henry Trapido-Rosenthal
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:56:11 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I would like to thank you for your consideration of SB1.

I believe that strong, monogamous marriages make fundamentally positive contributions to our society. They foster social, financial, and educational stability. The opportunity that Hawaii now has to extend marriage to gay and lesbian couples, thus increasing the state's married population, will benefit us all.

As you may be able to guess from the hyphenated surname that my wife and I took when we were married here 36 years ago, I view this issue from the perspective of a participant in a strong, monogamous marriage. It is my hope that our elected representatives will take the opportunity afforded by SB1 to extend this valuable institution to all who are willing to join it.

Sincerely Yours,

Hank Trapido-Rosenthal

Henry Trapido-Rosenthal
3615 Alani Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Renate Seldon
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:22:01 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Renate Seldon
P.o. Box 1216
Kalaheo, HI 96741

From: John Seagraves
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:22:47 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

John Seagraves
400 Hobron Lane
Apt 903
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Chad Durgan
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:25:50 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Chad Durgan
160 keonekai rd
Apt 18-201
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Paul J Endresen
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:32:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Paul J Endresen
82-6012 Mamalahoa hwy.
Captain Cook, HI 96704

From: Laura Margulies
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:26:58 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laura Margulies
118 Hawaii Loa Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: dennis chaquette
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:39:37 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Throughout America's history, the good people had to stand up to make America better. Over and over again.

When American's wanted to free slaves, good people had to stand up and make changes.

When American's wanted to give black people equal rights, good people had to stand up and make changes.

Now we want to give equal rights to the last group of American's who do not have equal rights in America.

That is all this is really all about, some people want to keep other people down, other people want everyone to be treated equally and fairly.

It doesn't matter what century you are in.

You either only care about yourself, or you care for others.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

dennis chaquette
box 492961
keaau, HI 96749

From: Makakaualii Rego
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:33:24 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Makakaualii Rego
500 university ave
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: Jack Zimmerman
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:42:40 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. My immediate family involves several people of gay persuasion. They get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

There is absolutely no basis for a government to interfere with these personal issues. It makes no sense for a government to dictate personal relationships.
In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jack Zimmerman
PO Box 1868
Honokaa, HI 96727

From: Chris DeVlugt
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:43:11 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Chris DeVlugt
46-259 Kahuhipa St
Honolulu, HI 96744

From: Michael Murphy
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:45:08 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I believe this is civil rights, not some social issue where people can politely disagree! The Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)! Hawaii should engage in inclusive politics, NOT exclusive! Many gays and lesbians and transgendered have fought and died for this country! Those who have served should be able to marry their true loves!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael Murphy
91-1003 Hokuimo Street
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: joe dalessandro
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:49:23 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

joe dalessandro
656 Meakanu Ln., #1601
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Sarah Spalding
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:24:27 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

3 weeks ago while traveling from Hilo to Kona on Saddle Road my partner and I were in a head on car crash. We survived, luckily, but while we were in separate trauma rooms at the hospital I kept asking for information about Jess.

I asked over and over and finally someone explained they couldn't give me information about "my friend".

I had to explain, while hooked up to IV's, pain meds and still immobilized that "my friend" and I were in fact partners with reciprocal medical powers of attorney. ALL of my hours of worry and worst fears would have been lessened if I had been able to ask for a status on my wife vs. partner.

The world "partner" doesn't have the legal or societal impact and power of "wife" or "husband". We didn't expect to be in a car crash and all our official papers were in Kona. This isn't a problem married folks face.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sarah Spalding
84-4987 Mamalahoa Highway
Captain Cook, HI 96704

From: Paul Tamaoka
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:34:55 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Paul Tamaoka
1221 Kapiolani Blvd. #109
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: Thomas Poole
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:44:03 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

1. Same-gender marriage is a civil right.
2. To deny marriage between 2 men or 2 women is to deny a right that is given to a heterosexual couple. It is to deny a right based solely on gender.
3. To deny same-gender marriage, especially in light of the Supreme Court's invalidation of DOMA, is to continue to discriminate and to deny the benefits of marriage to an entire class of citizens.

a. The denial of marriage for Marcus and me is a willful prohibiting of my participation in his retirement benefits (Marcus is a DOD/Joint Base Hickam-Pearl Harbor civilian employee).
b. Likewise, the denial of marriage for Marcus and me is to prohibit Marcus' participation in my Social Security spousal benefits.

4. Same-gender marriage should be a state-approved and state-sponsored (civil) contract between two individuals. It is not and should not be a religious contract. It is a civil contract. When a marriage is performed by a member of the clergy, that member is certified by the state to officiate and function as an agent of the state. (One does not have to be an ordained religious person/clergy to officiate/perform weddings. One has to be licensed by the state!)

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thomas Poole
2575 Kuhio Ave., # 902
5337 Kalanianaole Hwy
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Edmund Yee
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: A Cathoilic"s support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:44:04 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my strong support of SB 1. I felt confident that you and the Legislature had heard and knew all the substantive issues, which are really quite simple, but the onslaught of false and misleading images in the ad campaign of the opponents of SB 1 have caused me concern that the lobbying is making an emotional, unreasoned appeal that has nothing to do with the absolute right to receive equal treatment.

I have been a lawyer for 35 years and a Catholic since infancy. I continue to practice my religion at my parish, including service as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, as a member of the Finance Committee, as a member of the advisory committee to the pastor, and as the chairperson of our scholarship fund to assist parishioners with the burden of Catholic school tuition.
I do not agree with the non-fundamental rules that the American bishops, in particular, have imposed, and that includes opposition to civil or other forms of marriage that do not involve the Catholic sacrament of marriage. (Please note that technically the Catholic church does not recognize non-Catholic marriages in any event.) Instead, I take encouragement from Pope Francis's admonition to emphasize love and compassion over these more political issues.

My sister-in-law was married to her same-sex partner in Massachusetts 9 years ago. They continue to have a committed and loving relationship, that unfortunately my late mother-in-law was unable to accept. Yet, her daughter-in-law is the kindest and most concerned person for the elderly. It is a shame that my mother-in-law could not overcome the strictures of tradition and supposed Catholic doctrine. Fortunately, modern society, the evolving Catholic church, and you the Legislature have the opportunity to acknowledge and enjoy the positive qualities that same-sex couples bring to the institution of marriage.

It is not time to let old traditions and fear impair the fundamental right of all our citizens.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Edmund Yee
138 Pinana Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Leanne Hachey
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:55:30 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Simply put, as a business owner, property owner and taxpaying individual I am not afforded the same benefits and rights as my fellow citizens because my partner of 14 years is a woman. Clearly denying us the right to marry is unconstitutional and is an injustice no matter what you choose to believe in.

The people of Hawaii are a caring loving community and I have been overwhelmed by the support they have shown us in regard to equal rights for all couples under the law. Thank you to the University of Hawaii students who stood up in support of marriage equality this past week. And thank you to all of our political leaders that continue to fight for our equal rights. It means so much to me and my partner to have others care so much that we are not treated as second class citizens any longer.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Leanne Hachey
47-573 Hui Kelu
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Shane Wise
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:49:54 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I want to vigorously show my support of SB 1 and urge you to do the same.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. We must establish a sense of equal treatment of all citizens in Hawaii. Hawaii has a legacy of tolerance and acceptance from a multi-cultural perspective. Tolerance and acceptance is the foundation of civil justice and civil rights. The issue of gay marriage is on of civil justice and I am strongly in favor of supporting equal marriage rights for gay, lesbian, bi, transgender persons.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Lastly, this is another pivotal moment in history where human rights and justice are being tested. This is an opportunity to do the right thing support marriage equality. At this time a majority of Americans believe this is the right thing to do. But even if it were not popular, it is still the right thing to do.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shane Wise
7000 Pomaikai Street
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: Maile O"Connell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:05:47 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Like many of us in Hawaii, I have LGBT friends and relatives -- good people who are currently prohibited from marrying the people they love. Not only do they have to face this discrimination, but with the overturning of significant portions of Federal Defense of Marriage Act, this also means that they are being denied over a thousand federal rights and benefits.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic civil right that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment, and fidelity to the person they love.

Please side with fairness and justice for all of our citizens and pass this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Maile O'Connell
443 Kaha Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From:	Robert Nathanson
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 4:14:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robert Nathanson
68-615 Farrington Hwy. #19A
Waialua, HI 96791

From: chuck Spence
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:16:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

chuck Spence
551 S Kihei Rd
551 S KIHEI RD
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Kalani Pe"a
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:17:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

It's a sign, a sign that will influence people or discourage people. Locals and foreigners, people of color with diverse lifestyles are holding these signs. I feel that these signs are not demonstrating freedom of speech, but animosity and misperception. There are fat, robust, slim, tall and stout people holding these "hate" signs. These signs say "TRADITIONAL MARRIAGES FIRST" or "GOD IS FIRST, MARRIAGE IS SACRED" or sign the petition that will prohibit lawmakers in approving gay marriage in Hawai'I or sign the petition that outlaws gay marriages and the people of America should vote on such issue. I think it's absurd and people just don't think prior to acting upon it, but it happens. People are people, but in this situation I am insulted.

To voice my concern on this issue is foremost significant to me. It's not only the gathering on the sidewalks, or signs and pickets and the fine hand gestures and shakas that bothers me, it's the message on those signs, the petitions created and blogs established by those people causes a nuisance. Those people I come to know of are imploring some message of revulsion. It's disturbing and they humiliate me. I am insulted by these human's hullabaloos and discourtesy. They have one point, but to flaunt or exhibit their poor actions are insignificant. Again signs will influence people and we live in a world of imperfect people who make inadequate decisions. I have made some poor decisions, but I have discerned right from wrong. With my choices and lifestyle, I am not wrong and I am fully blessed.

I am not going to touch base on religion, leaders in various denominations and their carcasses in the closet, the bible or Book of Mormon, Buddhism or Jehovah Witnesses. That is a whole different article. I could write a book on that. Hence, my goal here is to exemplify my reasons in writing this. I am going to touch base on the mere fact that these signs and the messages behind them are impertinent. These people wave graciously into the wind in Kahului and Wailuku holding their signs with messages that are brash and exasperating. The irksome just to see these people be so vocal is something I can't even elaborate.

I am happy with my partner and we are successful in our careers and we do so much for our communities. I will marry him on the top of Ali'I Kula Lavender Gardens in the white gazebo, while the garden is draped in metro-Hawaiian Kapa prints, purple, pink and illuminating lights with loved ones present.

Happiness and love is the key to all of this. Straight couples, gay couples, stout, tall, fat or slim couples want happiness in their lives. Set aside the bible and what men have published. Set aside what god wants because all I know is that god loves me. Pele, Kane, Kanaloa and Jesus loves me. Lono loves me. Kamapua'a doesn't because I can't consume pork (I have gout, but have been gout free for 2 years). I'm chuckling. But, I am in love. My partner is successful and loves me unconditionally. I know my father and mother raised me and my siblings well. My parents and grandparents love me. We are all college graduates and into our careers. My family and friends love me and I love them. I am in love and grateful. I am Hawaiian and gay. Why do birds sing so gay? Because they're happy 'damnit.' The question to those people on the sidewalks waving down people with signs of animosity, are you happy? Bring out the skeletons out of the closet because I'm sure you're not perfect!

Kalani Pe’a, 30 years old
Kihei resident

.

Kalani Pe'a
73-1100 Nu'uanu Pl. Unit E101
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: Marti and Joe Paskal
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:21:02 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marti and Joe Paskal
box 1487
Hanalei, HI 96714

From: Katherine Crosby
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:10:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Katherine Crosby
168 Elilani street
Pukalani, HI 96768

From:	Summer Kaeka-Mau
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Testimony in support of gay marriage in Hawaii
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 3:11:56 PM

Aloha,

I, Summer Kaeka - Mau, support gay marriage in Hawaii.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via this email address. Mahalo!

Regards,

Summer Kaeka Mau

From:	Catherine Delnat
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	My niece should be able to marry
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 3:13:32 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My niece and her partner love each other very much and should be allowed to marry. They share their house, their business, and every aspect of their lives, except that they cannot be legally married. They flew all the way to Europe to marry there, but here they cannot claim to be legally joined.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Catherine Delnat
1060 Kamehameha Hwy
Apt 2402A
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: Evan Shirley
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:16:05 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am Evan R. Shirley. I am writing on my behalf and, with her approval, on behalf of my wife Elaine C. Shirley. We both strongly support passage of SB 1.

Hawaii is a place that especially respects individual rights and personal freedom. The ability to marry freely someone with whom you have a loving relationship, a lifelong bond, and a mutual commitment to each other should be respected and endorsed by our State of Hawaii laws.

Our country's history started with only male, white people's rights with slavery sanctioned in much of the country by law. Over two and a quarter centuries, people's rights have expanded enormously. There is absolutely no reason to deny two people of the same or different religion, of the same or different race, of the same or different sex, of the same of different citizenship, the right to engage in a mutually consensual marriage just like persons of opposite sex can do.

Now I've heard that the Bible condemns such a relationship. The Bible, however, is not the law of the land any more than the Torah, the Koran, BhagavadgÄ, or other religious text. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

I want to end this testimony with what our country was started for in the first instance. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Evan Shirley
4300 Waialae Avenue
Apt A204
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Jacob McPherson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:19:49 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I WANT TO BE A WHOLE CITIZEN.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jacob McPherson
438 Kaumana Dr
Hilo, HI 96720

From: David Sheridan
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:21:04 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I have lived with my partner since the 20th of September 1983. We raised a daughter who graduated from college, then graduate school, then married a fine young man.

We are responsible citizens who vote in every election, we both work hard, have good incomes and pay taxes. We make substantial donations to charitable insitutions in our community. We have long been active in our local church.

Yet the State of Hawaii says we are not a family. Because we are both men, the state says we are "just friends" or maybe "roommates."

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. We have made a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity, and unlike 50% of heterosexuals who marry, we are still together. Yet the State of Hawaii says we cannot marry. This is wrong.

We urge you to pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Sheridan
PO Box 7555
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Eduardo da Bahia
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:22:08 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Eduardo da Bahia
740A Ekela Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Jennifer Eyre
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:22:03 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love My parents raised six children, now adults; our oldest brother is gay and youngest sister lesbian. Both have been in committed partnerships for over 20 years and are wonderful people who contribute generously to their communities. They deserve every right the rest of us siblings have!

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jennifer Eyre
PO box 793
Kula, HI 96790

From: Gerald Nishioka
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:23:05 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gerald Nishioka
842B 20th Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Joii Guerrero
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:23:27 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joii Guerrero
3750 L Honoapiilani Rd
#205
Lahaina, HI 96761

From: Charlene Zuill
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:24:24 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

We would not be the first state to allow equal rights to all citizens in regards to marriage. We certainly do not want to be the last.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Charlene Zuill
1351 Center Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Kamu Dickson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:29:10 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kamu Dickson
3212 Loulu St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Robert Hogan
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:33:30 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robert Hogan
85-175 Farrington Hwy
A133
Waianae, HI 96792

From: William Seemann
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:34:13 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

William Seemann
3247 Herbert St
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Dr. Tim Riley
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:35:35 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.
I married my long term partner on September 21, 2012 in Wellfleet, Massachusetts. I am asking you to consider the fact that had our beloved State of Hawaii had marriage equality we would have spent the THOUSANDS of dollars we spent in Massachusetts right here in our home State of Hawaii. In these tough times of economic turmoil we need the financial BOOM we would have from marriage equality. I would look at this as MARRIAGE OPPORTUNITY for our Hawaiian economy.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dr. Tim Riley
240 Ala Malama AVE.
PO. Box482258
Kaunakakai,, HI 96748

From: Amber Alvarez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:35:58 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I am a college student and I have been with my partner for almost two years now. My partner is a federal worker and retired medically from the Army after serving in Iraq. There are many benefits that we are not entitled to. Benefits that married couples never really think about and take for granted. If we were to get married i would be able to be a dependent to her and receive some benefits through the VA. I don't understand how my love for her is any different than love between a man and a woman. We are engaged to be married and if marriage equality doesn't happen here then we are still going to get married just not in our home state. Being able to join in this joyous occasion with our families and friends who support us would be the best feeling in the world. I am like any other woman who as a young girl dreamed of the perfect wedding. Unless marriage equality is passed here in Hawaii, my dreams will never come to fruition. We will continue to feel treated like second class citizens.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Amber Alvarez
457 Manawai St. 1402
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: Kelly Mitchell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:36:20 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kelly Mitchell
Kumukahi
Honolulu, HI 96825

From:	Scott Dodd
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 2:36:33 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Please pass this bill to recognize my family and protect us legally like other couples.

We appreciate your support.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Scott Dodd
75-5828 Kahakai Road
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From: Javed Maksood
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:41:57 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Javed Maksood
1792 Pe'e Rd
Koloa, HI 96756

From: Mariana Monasi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:44:02 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

When we are growing up, we dream of the day that we will find the perfect person for us, who we will be able to marry, form a family with and grow old with. We hope that our friends, siblings and kids will one day find their perfect partner.

With the hardship and discrimination that LGBT people face day to day, it is inhumane to deny a legal right to marry, when any couple is in love.

The majority of those who oppose a law to allow gay marriage, do so because of religious reasons. They say "let the people vote", but that is not what a government is supposed to do. A government is supposed to protect its citizens equally without discriminating against minorities.

While you were all voted into your positions, one of the jobs this committee has is to make sure that the laws of the land are non discriminatory, that these do not stomp on anyone's rights to live free and pursue happiness. We live in a state where historically, LGBT people were an ingrained and included part of the culture. We live in a secular nation, where religion and government are separate, so I urge you to vote from that standpoint.

Let us be able to create an inclusive and progressive future for every person. So that one day we can look back to this moment, as we now look back to the civil rights movement, women's suffrage and the emancipation proclamation. Often, minorities are discriminated against for many different reasons, I hope you have the strength to be one of the individuals who stand for those who often don't have a voice.

Mahalo

Mariana Monasi
kahoaloha Ln
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: Madeline Reed
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:46:55 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The State should not legislate matters of the heart. People should be allowed to commit themselves to whoever they love, regardless of gender. Legislating otherwise is a governmental invasion into one of the most private aspects of human life.

We all deserve to be treated equally by the State, regardless of who we love and want to marry. Honoring the genuine connection between two people does nothing to harm the institution of marriage. On the contrary, it strengthens marriage by basing the union in genuine human emotion, rather than out-dated ideals, fear, and conformity.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Madeline Reed
PO Box 6774
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: Kathrine Fast
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:51:03 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

As a therapist in a local university, I've seen firsthand what a difference it makes in the lives of LGBTQ students when they have loving and supportive relationships with their families. Over and above the issue of equality, legalizing marriage will help families support their LGBTQ members by reducing stigma, and supporting long-term committed relationships.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kathrine Fast
47-759 Hui Kelu St., apt 4
QLCSS #312
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Chasity Cadaoas
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:54:27 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Chasity Cadaoas
1935 Main St., Ste 101
Wailuku, HI 96793

From:	GP Merfeld
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 2:55:13 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

"The rights of a minority shall not be determined by the vote of a majority."

This was a guiding principal of our forefathers while setting up our democracy, as one of their greatest fears with this form of government was the possibility of the "Tyranny of the Majority."

The same tyranny that denied women and ethnic minorities the right to vote.

The same tyranny that denied the right of interracial marriage.

The same tyranny that now waives signs and buys commercial air time to urge us to "Let the people decide on marriage!"

The same tyranny that was overturned in California after so much time, effort, and money was spent in trying once again to deny a minority's rights by the vote of a majority.

It is time to learn from the past and move forward, in step with the Federal rulings that struck down DOMA.

It is time to truly practice the separation of Church and State.

It is time to allow all citizens their basic and equal civil rights.

It is time, here in the Aloha State, to live an let live, with Aloha...

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

GP Merfeld
87-2472 Mamalahoa Hwy
Captain Cook, HI 96704

From: Donald Sanders
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:56:19 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Donald Sanders
75-5475 Mamalahoa Hwy
Holualoa, HI 96725

From: DAVID McCAULEY
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:58:25 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

In this country, as the U.S. Supreme Court has confirmed, neither the government nor any religious leader should be in the business of imposing it/his/her views on who people can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. The scare stories we have recently seen expressed in our state by religious pundits are just that: unfounded scare stories.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

DAVID McCAULEY
3663 Alani Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Jordan Miles
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:58:34 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jordan Miles
2772 laniloa rd a
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Kristin Bacon
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1 - Please give us marriage equality!
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:06:46 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to ask you to please put SB 1 into law.

My partner and I have been together for 18 years, and we want to get married here in our home state. Shouldn't the love and commitment we feel for each other be acknowledged in the same way that other couples of the opposite sex experience?

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. With all my heart, I long to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person I love in the same way that straight couples have been able to for years.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

If other states and countries of the world can do it, Hawai'i certainly can join in on this vision of marriage equality

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kristin Bacon
1717 Mott Smith Drive
Apartment 1112
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Debra Mark
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:07:11 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Debra Mark
1349 Wilhelmina Rise
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Nina Ki
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:09:55 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

To this day, I weep at the thought of excluding people from a freedom that should be enjoyed by everyone. We need to think about the message that we are sending our keiki. Should Hawai'i acknowledge and give equal marital status to good people who do not fit into our cookie cutter description of "the norm"? Or deny this basic right and allow exclusivity based on a person's nature?

I am supporting this bill to give gay/homosexual couples the opportunity to enjoy the same privileges that many heterosexual couples abuse.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Nina Ki
6093 Keoki Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: Leigh Drachman
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1 - YES for Marriage Equality!
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:35:14 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

As the sister of a gay man, my desire is that he always has the same rights as a heterosexual man. He did not choose to be gay, he was born that way and I love him.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Leigh Drachman
6240A Olohena Rd
Kapaa, HI 96746

From: Paul Hanson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:35:40 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

I know that we need to allow the same rights of marriage to gays and lesbians as the rest of us receive. It is a shame on our society that it has taken so long for this to happen. We need to change this now if we are to consider our selves a decent society based on love and equality for each other.

-Paul Hanson

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Paul Hanson
733 Pensacola st.
honolulu, HI 96814

From:	Mary A. Guinger
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 1:39:07 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mary A. Guinger
926A Kaipii St.
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Greg Walker
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:39:24 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Greg Walker
po box 17668
honolulu, HI 96817

From: Carla Lapis on
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:42:55 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

It is time for Hawaii to stand on the side of love for all of Hawaii's people. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Carla Lapis on
1062 Oilipuu Place
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Lisa Grove
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:49:05 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

I am a faithful Christian and it is my faith that guides me to support SB1. I was taught that we are all God‘s children and it is not for us to judge others.

I was also taught the value of practicing the Golden Rule. To that end, would I want to be told it is illegal to marry the person I love? Absolutely not. My marriage it too important to me to want to deny that one-of-a-kind relationship to anyone else.

If someone told me I had to be in a civil union instead, it would be devastating -- and the lack of definition or understanding about civil unions has had devastating effects in other places.

I urge to practice the values we hold dear -- freedom, equality, the Golden Rule and the basic understanding that love is love, it is something that belongs to everybody.

Mahalo for reading this.

Sincerely,
Lisa Grove
Lana‘i, Hawai‘i

Lisa Grove
P.O. BOX 631719
Lanai City, HI 96763

From: Zulma Aguiar
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:50:00 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

If you don't agree with homosexuality, think of them as humans who pay taxes. Some of the tax issues they encounter are unfair to them and the Supreme Court has already sided with them when it comes to paying more taxes just for being in a gay partnership vs. a marriage. Married people are being favored by the laws of our country and as a single person, I'm not happy about that.

Another thing. Think of all the gay weddings, personally, I own a bed and breakfast. I will have a new customer base that I never expected. The truth is that the green dollar that the gay spends in Hawaii is just as green and valuable as the green dollar of the Japanese tourist or the Chinese visitor. This is a new revenue stream that those of us who are tolerant of gays will absolutely benefit from.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Zulma Aguiar
437 Pau Street
#703
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Patrick Taomae
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:51:21 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Patrick Taomae
1188 Bishop Street
Suite 3012
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Michael Lippert
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:51:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael Lippert
1415 Victoria St 806
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Rev Gregory Hungerford
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:54:41 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rev Gregory Hungerford
68-085 Waialua Beach Rd
Waialua, HI 96791

From:	Kelsey Dockter
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 1:54:30 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kelsey Dockter
2591 Dole St.
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: James Duca
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:56:00 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love, and to provide stability for the children that they bring into the marriage.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family and we do not discriminate against people for the way that they were born. . No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

With minor exceptions based on health concerns, the government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. We have long since eliminated anti-miscegenation laws which people once attempted to defend as God's will. The same mistaken claim is now being raised with respect to the same-sex marriage laws. Perhaps more importantly, we should not have laws that embrace one group's views as to what is God's will at the expense of another's.

Those opposing these laws have made the unfounded claim that the same-sex marriage laws would attack the family, the marriages of heterosexual couples, or their religious freedom. They might just as well accuse these laws of killing dolphins, emitting greenhouse gases and causing cancer. Giving my gay friends the same legal rights that I enjoy does not diminish anyone else's rights. Certainly no one expects clergy who have religious objections to same sex marriage to perform marriage ceremonies for gay couples.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

James Duca
828 Fort Street
Suie 1800
Honolulu, HI 96734

From: Edwin DePonte-Merideth
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:00:23 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My husband and I had a private service in 1997 in Kane`ohe due to the inequality of our relationship to that of our parents. 1997 was also the year we left Hawai`i for California, where we lived for 14 years - we attained our education (we both have Masters' Degrees) and paid our taxes in California. Incidentally, we were also to legally marry in California in 2008, the same year we adopted our two beautiful daughters. We moved to what we considered "home" in 2011 only to find that the inequality still persists. If California and now the Federal goverment can recognize us as married, I am puzzled as to why Hawai`i cannot do the same for two of its own. We now live in Hawai`i, pay our taxes to Hawai`i, but do not have the same benefits and protections as other married tax payers in the state - it is not pono, and must be changed.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawai`i, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawai`i's families.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Edwin DePonte-Merideth
1486 Humu`ula Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From:	Elsie Andaya-Bohol
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 2:02:05 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

With such a beautiful mix and divers place here we have our own unique culture that has seen change and revolution over time. Being able to change is one thing but we transform as a people that live here in the islands with true beauty the cultural values of 'Ohana and acceptance.

I ask not just as a young person of the future but as young Kanaka maoli (Native Hawaiian) of this beautiful place called Hawai'i to please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Mahalo Nui loa for reading my to testimony and for the opportunity testify.

Elsie Andaya-Bohol
2585 Dole st Hale Noelani C 140
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: michael swerdlow
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:02:46 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

michael swerdlow
pob 384192
waikoloa, HI 96738

From: Theresa Galpin
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:04:07 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Theresa Galpin
49-051 Johnson road
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Kae Toguchi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:04:37 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kae Toguchi
94-021 Hokupalemo Pl.
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Kae Toguchi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:04:39 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kae Toguchi
94-021 Hokupalemo Pl.
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Keith Kessler
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:04:47 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Keith Kessler
2747 S KIHEI RD APT E103
Apt E103
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Kae Toguchi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:04:48 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kae Toguchi
94-021 Hokupalemo Pl.
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Kim Anderson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:05:00 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kim Anderson
505 E Kuiaha Rd
Haiku, HI 96708

From: Sonia Blackiston
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:08:43 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sonia Blackiston
92-831 Makakilo Drive
Apt 55
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: Fritz Fritschel
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:16:15 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

As a retired Lutheran clergyman, I heartily endorse SB 1. The term marriage is an abstract term, referring as it does to many forms of relationship during its use and history. Certainly that is true within the Bible.

But at concrete relationship of two people, same gender or not, is what the state should be interested in supporting and strengthening. Recognizing Same-gender relationships under the rubrics of marriage can go a long way in solidifying that support.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Fritz Fritschel
and Carol Langner

Fritz Fritschel
1415 Victoria St #1101
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Rockwood Rockwood
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:25:09 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Human sexuality is a lot like a chocolate bar; some people like their chocolate bar with nuts and some do not. It should be up to the individual to make that choice.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Rockwood Rockwood
74-5606 Pawai Pl.
suite #6
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: Brandy Domingo
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:27:15 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Brandy Domingo
94-446 Hamau st.
WAIPAHU, HI 96797

From: Ana Murray
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:11:52 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ana Murray
41-37 hihimanu street
waimanalo, HI 96795

From: Renie Lindley
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:12:10 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Renie Lindley
66-627 Haleiwa Rd.
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: aaron mickelson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:12:31 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I am straight, but have known many gay couples who would make excellent husbands and wives and parents, and deserve the right to do so. In fact, my girlfriend and I are waiting to get married until everybody in Hawaii can marry, regardless of the sexual orientation. So your decision affects me too!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

aaron mickelson
PO BOX 412
Papaikou, HI 96781

From: Mattielin Mann
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:12:34 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mattielin Mann
98-1941 Kaahumanu St.
Unit C
Aiea, HI 96701

From: Aj Jaeger
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:13:32 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

57 years ago, my parents married at a time when mixed marriages were against the law. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aj Jaeger
532 Paumakua Place
Kailua, HI 96734

From: james heermans
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:14:24 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

james heermans
1084 kinau st #5
honolulu, HI 96814

From: Phillip Arnold
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:16:43 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Phillip Arnold
2825 South King Street
Honoluolu, HI 96826

From: David Bruce Leonard
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:17:26 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

We cannot vote away someone else's civil rights. A "majority" vote for something like slavery or some other infringement of basic human rights and dignity is unthinkable.

And so it is with the right to love.

What we do here today will be judged by history. We can move toward the inalienable rights for all our citizens, or we can move back into the Dark Ages.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Bruce Leonard
620 Hoene Street
Makawao, HI 96768

From: Robert Berry
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:17:45 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robert Berry
14-3468 Puna Road
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: Lisa Hamilton
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: I support legalizing marriage for all.
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:19:15 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Marriage is a right, not a privilege. Love is our birthright, and it then further manifests in marriage and the rights inherent within that. EVERYONE has the right to marry whomever they wish. That is natural and sensible, as the heart goes where it will.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lisa Hamilton
146 Ehilani
Makawao, HI 96768

From: Camille Chong
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:19:48 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Camille Chong
1617 Young St.
Apt. A101
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: Renie Lindley
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:21:07 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I have married the person I wish to spend the rest of my life with. I married this person in care of the Honolulu Friends Meeting, Religious Society of Friends. They welcomed our same-sex marriage with love and open welcome.

However, the marriage is not recognized by the State of Hawaii. So my support of SB1 is for legalizing this marriage. I am not trying to force churches who don't believe in same sex marriage to officiate them.

But the government should not be keeping me from my legal rights.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Renie Lindley
66-627 Haleiwa Rd.
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: Cathy Granholm
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:20:44 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I am disgusted that my own state senator, Ron Kouchi, is substituting his personal religious beliefs over the civil rights of all citizens of the United states. I will never vote for someone who does this.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cathy Granholm
3617 Keoniana Rd.
Princeville, HI 96722

From: Vince Ng
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:26:43 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Vince Ng
33 Kamaiki Cir
Kahului, HI 96732

From: Charlette Harmon
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:28:05 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Charlette Harmon
94-1455 Waipio Uka St
Apt N106
Waipahu, HI 96797

From: Vince Ng
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:28:40 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Vince Ng
33 Kamaiki Cir
Kahului, HI 96732

From: Caryl Burns
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:30:31 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

It's unfair to restrict basic rights from gays and lesbians.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.
Caryl Burns

Caryl Burns
73-1014 Ahulani St.
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From:	T. J. Davies Jr.
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 1:34:03 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I support Marriage Equality for all of Hawaii's citizens. Please vote in favor of Senate Bill 1

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

T. J. Davies Jr.
909 Kapiolani Blvd # 601
Ste 601
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: Banmala Hayes
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:25:44 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Banmala Hayes
417 Namahana Street #3
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: wong keng
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:25:17 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

wong keng
1720 Ala Moana
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Paul Lillie
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:24:50 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Paul Lillie
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
539 Kapahulu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Jenna Long
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:23:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jenna Long
16-1172 Moho Road
Kurtistown, HI 96760

From: Susan Wurtzburg
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1 by an educater
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:20:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. i teach at the University of Hawaii, and endorse equal rights for all my students.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Susan Wurtzburg
Kawailoa St
Kailua, HI 96734

From: jade maglanoc
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:20:44 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

jade maglanoc
1946 ala moana blvd #328
honolulu, HI 96815

From: Joel Johnson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:04:18 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joel Johnson
98-099 Uao Place
APT 2109
Aiea, HI 96701

From: Harold Kameya
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:56:33 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

In California, after the US Supreme Court ruling of June 26, 2013, LGBT persons could marry people of their choice.

THE SKY DID NOT FALL! Everyone appreciated being treated equally, finally!

Harold Kameya
480 Waiehu Beach Road
Wailku, HI 96793

From: Diliaur Tellei
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:48:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

As a person of faith, I've been taught all my life that every person has an innate dignity. This holds true no matter what faith you may identify with and if you don't identify as religious. Every single person in the world deserves equal rights, and I believe that now is the time for Hawaii to do its part to uphold this idea.

The right to marry the person you love is one of the most basic rights a person has, and the fact that not everyone is covered by the current law is incomprehensible to me -- but now we have the opportunity to change it.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families, and demonstrate respect for every person's innate dignity.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Diliaur Tellei
1810 University Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Anderson O"Mealy
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:46:54 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My husband and I are already married in California and and a dozen other states that recognize it. We just celebrated our 5th anniversary. The federal government also now recognizes our marriage. There is no logical or legal reason for our marriage to not be recognized in our home state . It is only a matter of time before the courts will rule AGAIN that it is unconstitutional to deny us our right to marriage. So do the right thing before the lawsuits start piling up. Pass marriage equality now.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anderson O'Mealy
2410 Cleghorn St #1702
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Paige Yamamoto
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:37:14 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Paige Yamamoto
1540 Auld Lane Apt. C
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Darlene Rodrigues
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:31:40 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I write as a Roman Catholic who believes that every citizen no matter one's sexual orientation has a right to the same rights to marriage under the law.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Darlene Rodrigues
94-338 Ulukoa St.
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Allison Fong
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:26:47 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Allison Fong
1000 Pope Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

From:	Michael Zucker
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:15:52 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

Hawaii was the first. Let's not be the last. Marriage equality is the future, and the future is now.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael Zucker
2515 Lai Road
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Carolynn Griffith
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:10:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Carolynn Griffith
83 Nawiliwili St.
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Thelina ODaniel
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:09:59 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thelina ODaniel
92-8876 Leilani Parkway
OceanView, HI 96737

From: Sharon Ortiz
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:35:03 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sharon Ortiz
1013 Alahaki Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Joseph Ferraro
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:57:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry and the reason for marriage. The current statute as I recall is for procreation. This even exempts my wife and I who have no children together. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I implore you to please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's citizens .

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joseph Ferraro
2703 Terrace Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Joseph Ferraro
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:57:16 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry and the reason for marriage. The current statute as I recall is for procreation. This even exempts my wife and I who have no children together. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

I implore you to please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's citizens .

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joseph Ferraro
2703 Terrace Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Nickey Robertson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:24:54 PM

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Committee on Judiciary and Labor members:

My name is N. Tod Robertson. I am a 23 year resident of Hawaii who strongly supports SB1. I ask you to support SB1 also.

Now is the time to grant same-sex couples their full Civil Rights. Same-sex individuals deserve the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive. Please recognize marriages between individuals of the same sex by supporting SB1.

Thank you for your support of SB1

N.Tod Robertson

620 McCully Street #507

Honolulu, Hawaii.

--
NTR

From: Kimble Mead
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:13:18 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kimble Mead
760 South Kihei Rd.#603
Kihei, HI 96753

From: julie dagenais
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:15:25 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

julie dagenais
1617 miller st #3
honolulu, HI 96813

From: Tiffany Clarion
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:15:32 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tiffany Clarion
3003 Ala Napuaa Apt 304
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: Antonia Barnhart
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:20:38 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB1

While I am not gay, many of my friends are and have been together in committed relationships longer than I and my husband. Why can't they have the same rights we enjoy?

In' Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

The love and commitment I see in my friend's relationships is inspiring to me. Do the right thing for our people.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Antonia Barnhart
523 wainaku st.
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Jacquline Tripp
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:58:18 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jacquline Tripp
1214 A 14 A 14 Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Aaron Ohama
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:04:31 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aaron Ohama
421 Nahua
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Raymond Potts
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:15:33 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Raymond Potts
1720 Ala Moana
#B508
Honolulu, HI 98620

From: Sherill Kearns
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:27:34 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Marriage Equality cannot have a negative impact on heterosexual marriage or on families. All families and all loving couples deserve equal protection and support under the law. As a heterosexual person in a happy marriage, I want to extend the rights that I enjoy to everyone.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sherill Kearns
1141 Kaluanui Rd
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Blain Stark
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:30:05 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Blain Stark
1522 Bertram st
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: roy tran
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:29:59 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

roy tran
2569 Cartwright
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Jeanne Marie Iorio
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:29:20 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jeanne Marie Iorio
3029 Lowrey Ave
Apt D1215
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: katherine hartwig
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:33:20 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

katherine hartwig
wheeler aaf
Wahiwa, HI 96854

From: clayton langeneckert
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:33:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

clayton langeneckert
126 neff st pmb1119
wheeler aaf, HI 96786

From: Jason Ford
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:39:15 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jason Ford
2327 Liloa Rise
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: pacer lee
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:39:31 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

pacer lee
45535 luluku rd apt c5
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: tianna byrne
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:41:40 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

tianna byrne
74th eod box#142
schofield barracks, HI 96857

From: keale baclig
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:44:35 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

keale baclig
1303 liliha st 206
honolulu, HI 96817

From: keale baclig
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:44:43 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

keale baclig
1303 liliha st 206
honolulu, HI 96817

From: Gabriella Lopez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:44:44 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. We all deserve equality!!!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gabriella Lopez
1303 liliha st apt.206
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Erric Odom
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:47:33 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Erric Odom
1088 biship st
Honolul, HI 96815

From: Erric Odom
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:47:33 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Erric Odom
1088 biship st
Honolul, HI 96815

From: Erric Odom
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:47:37 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Erric Odom
1088 biship st
Honolul, HI 96815

From: Anna Odom
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:49:26 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anna Odom
1088 biship st
honolulu, HI 96815

From: Anna Odom
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:49:27 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anna Odom
1088 biship st
honolulu, HI 96815

From: Anna Odom
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:49:36 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anna Odom
1088 biship st
honolulu, HI 96815

From: Anna Odom
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:49:37 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anna Odom
1088 biship st
honolulu, HI 96815

From: Anna Odom
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:49:38 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anna Odom
1088 biship st
honolulu, HI 96815

From: Siobhán Ní Dhonacha
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1 - Vote Yes For Democratic Constitutional Rights!
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:54:07 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1 both as a matter of American democratic constitutional equality and simple decency and integrity. Rights should never be for sale or be piecemeal, and if they are, that undermines an economically stable society that can move forward together to achieve common goals that improve life for all.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Siobhán Ní Dhonacha
Mott-Smith Drive
#1112
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Jack Law
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:55:57 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Victor Hugo, the great French poet and author, stated, "Nothing is stronger than an idea whose time has come." This certainly applies in Hawaii for same-sex marriage.

Same-sex marriage, in the State of Hawaii, with religious exemptions, will go the way of fourteen of other U.S. States, the District of Columbia, Canada, many states in Mexico, many South American countries, most of Europe, and The Republic of South Africa. Polls show that same-sex marriage is a non-issue for those under 30 years of age.

Our conservative leaders on same-sex marriage, should look to the future when same-sex marriage will be commonplace everywhere in Hawaii, and the rest of the world, as it is now in the places already mentioned.

If a legislator votes against same-sex marriage, how will their legacy stand the test of time? How will they feel ten, even twenty years after the vote, to have to say they voted against the equality of their fellow men and women? Will they say to their children and grandchildren, "My human right principles where the same as Russia's and Uganda's"?

To the Hawaii legislators, vote for the future, vote for an idea whose time has come, it will be your legacy.

Jack Law

Jack Law
4690 Sierra Dr.
Kaimuki, Honolulu,, HI 96816

From: Barbara Service
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:56:59 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Please pass this bill to allow individuals to marry the person they love. Gay and lesbian couples want to marry for the same reason that heterosexual couples want to marry, that is, to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity. This basic freedom should not be denied to anyone.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. There is no compelling reason for same-sex couples not to marry.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Barbara Service
4172 Keanu St. #4
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: carlos hernandez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:59:22 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

carlos hernandez
827 kinau st
honolulu, HI 96813

From: Shih-Wei Ma
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:14:09 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shih-Wei Ma
1288 Kapiolani Blvd Apt 3806
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: Matthew Mitchell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:14:19 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My name is Matt Mitchell. I was born and raised in Kailua on O'ahu and I am a proud graduate of Kailua High class of 1982.
I have never submitted testimony before regarding this issue, nor have I ever attended any hearings nor have I ever really gotten involved in the political process until now. This issue is very important to me and your decision will have a direct impact on my future.
I have been in a loving and committed relationship with a Brazilian citizen for the last five years. He is the love of my life and we are committed to each other for life and would like to have the same opportunities that are afforded to heterosexual citizens, including the right to marry each other and to enjoy the benefits that come with being lawfully married.
My partner lives and works in Rio De Janeiro and as you can imagine, the long distance commute for us has been difficult.
Please pass this Marriage Bill. Please stay on the right side of history. Please allow my partner and I to be treated as equals. Please make me proud to live in the Aloha state!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Matthew Mitchell
1123 Akipola St
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Adam Ma
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:15:13 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Adam Ma
1448 Young St Apt 1103
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: Fred Baysa
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:17:48 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Fred Baysa
1177 Queen St Apt 4507
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: George Grace
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:27:59 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My daughter is in a long-term (25 years or so) lesbian relationship that I have at times thought of as the best relationship of any couple I know. They live in California, where now, fortunately, they're legally married despite the evil (I can think of no more suitable word) efforts of some religious ideologues.

I was very proud of Hawaii when it was leading the nation in the freedom to marry. Since, I've felt ashamed as it's fallen behind one state after another. Let's get this evil cured!!

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

George Grace
1212 punahou
#2108
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: Adrian Jones
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:30:18 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Adrian Jones
94-385 Kaholo St
Mililiani, HI 96789

From: Michael Moore
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:34:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I sent a previous letter (identical to this) which i forgot to sign. This is the signed version.

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am a 68 year old gay male for whom the ability to marry is of little importance as far as any personal aspirations i might have regarding that institution are concerned. simply put, i don't want to get married! the majority of people (gay and straight), however, overwhelmingly do want to get married to a committed partner. many, in fact, want to have children as well. Civil unions give the appearance to others that these gay parents (and consequently their children!) aren't as "good" as their children's fellow classmates and friends at school.

I believe that if the gay parents of these children are allowed to marry it can only strengthen society by giving these children a happy, stable, nurturing home, thus bringing forth more well-adjusted children. This would be in sharp contrast to the other end of the spectrum - children who have been brought up to believe they aren't as good as others and consequently relate to the world from their tension around that issue. This scenario would only create conflict for these children - conflict in their interpersonal relationships as well as conflict with society in general.

Marriage for same sex couples has many other benefits too numerous to mention in this brief testimony, the economic boost to tourism being only one. But when you get down to the nitty gritty of it, this issue is most importantly about basic human rights - the right to marry the person you love, create a family and find some happiness in a world that is not always a very happy place.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael Forrest Moore
Kailua Kona

Michael Moore
77-447 Ho'omaluhia Pl
KAILUA KONA, HI 96740

From: Michael Moore
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:34:46 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I sent a previous letter (identical to this) which i forgot to sign. This is the signed version.

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am a 68 year old gay male for whom the ability to marry is of little importance as far as any personal aspirations i might have regarding that institution are concerned. simply put, i don't want to get married! the majority of people (gay and straight), however, overwhelmingly do want to get married to a committed partner. many, in fact, want to have children as well. Civil unions give the appearance to others that these gay parents (and consequently their children!) aren't as "good" as their children's fellow classmates and friends at school.

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Marriage for same sex couples has many other benefits too numerous to mention in this brief testimony, the economic boost to tourism being only one. But when you get down to the nitty gritty of it, this issue is most importantly about basic human rights - the right to marry the person you love, create a family and find some happiness in a world that is not always a very happy place.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael Forrest Moore
Kailua Kona

Michael Moore
77-447 Ho'omaluhia Pl
KAILUA KONA, HI 96740

From: Joe Jackson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:44:26 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Come on! Do the right thing. It's about time.

Joe Jackson
1611 Hoohiamoe St
Pearl City, HI 96782

From:	TBill808
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	SB1 Suppport Testimony; Mon 10/28
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:47:46 AM
Attachments:	SB1_Support10'28'13.docx

Attached is my testimony in support of SB 1, relating to Equal Rights.
Teresa Bill

From: Pat Gozemba
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SUPPORT FOR: SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights (Marriage Equality).
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:50:09 AM
Attachments: CFER Memo 10.11.13.docx

I fully support SB 1 and attach and include within this message my response to Brian Camenker's negative attack on marriage equality: "What Same-Sex Marriage Has Done to Massachusetts."

Patricia A. Gozemba
17 Sutton Ave.
Salem, MA 01970
978.744.9141
pgozemba@gmail.com

To: Tambry Young, Chair Citizens for Equal Rights (CFER)
From: Dr. Patricia A. Gozemba, co-author of **Courting Equality: A Documentary History of America's First Legal Same-Sex Marriages** (Beacon Press, 2007). Contact: pgozemba@gmail.com
Re: "What Same-Sex 'Marriage' Has Done to Massachusetts" (2012) by Brian Camenker of MassResistance
Date: October 11, 2013

Thank you for calling my attention to the distribution in the Hawai'i legislature of Brian Camenker's "What Same-Sex 'Marriage' Has Done to Massachusetts." I trust that the Hawai'i groups responsible for the distribution do not understand the extent of the half-truths, misinformation, and outright lies in the document. As a member of the Hawai'i Citizens for Equal Rights Board, an academic and writer on issues of concern to the LGBT community, as well as a part-time resident of Hawai'i and Massachusetts, I feel compelled to respond.

Please consider the source of "What Same-Sex 'Marriage' Has Done to Massachusetts." The source, Brian Camenker, founder of **MassResistance**, an anti-gay group based in Waltham, Massachusetts, has persistently sought to portray Massachusetts's lead position in granting equality as detrimental. For this and other discriminatory offensives, **MassResistance** is consistently named by the **Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)** as a hate group (www.splcenter.org/get-informed/hate-map) . **MassResistance** is in the company of other hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, White Aryan Resistance, and a variety of Nazi groups.

The **SPLC**, an eminently respected watch-dog organization, is listed under the resources section of the **FBI**'s web page on hate crimes. SPLC is cited by scholars as a reliable source on right-wing extremism and hate groups. Rory McVeigh, chair of the Sociology Department at the University of Notre Dame, considers the SPLC a reliable source of information for scholars.

In addition to SPLC monitoring, **RightWingWatch** (www.rightwingwatch.org), a project of **People For the American Way,** monitors Camenker and **MassResistance. RightWingWatch** declares on its website that it is "dedicated to monitoring and reporting on the activities of right-wing political organizations, in order to expose the agenda of the extreme Right." Their researchers "monitor dozens of broadcasts, emails and websites, and use their expertise on right-wing movements to analyze and distill that information for the general public." Their reporting educates by "shedding

light on the activities of right-wing organizations" and exposing "the risks that their extreme and intolerant agendas present to our country."

On the **RightWingWatch** website there are 85 published investigations of discriminatory and hateful actions taken by Brian Camenker and **MassResistance.** The research indicates the ways in which Camenker strives to engender intolerance towards the LGBT community.

MASSRESISTANCE HOT BUTTON ISSUES

Rather than attempt to dispute all of the distortions in Camenker's piece, I'd like to focus on a few hot button issues.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Camenker incorrectly insists that courts are mandating that Massachusetts public introduce literature portraying gay families and teach about same-sex marriages.

He points to cases filed in 2006-2007 by David Parker and Robb and Robin Wirthlin of Lexington, and distorts the First Circuit Court decision in *Parker v. Hurley*, claiming, "Because same-sex marriage is 'legal' federal judges have ruled that the schools now have a duty to portray homosexual relationships as normal to children, despite what parents think or believe!"

Camenker's interpretation of the decision of the ruling of the First Circuit Court in *Parker v. Hurley* is incorrect, according to **Nima Eshgsi, Esq. of Gay, Lesbian, Advocates and Defenders (**www.glad.org**). Eshgsi notes that the court "did not mandate the teaching of any subject or course material, nor did it say that the school had any duty to teach about marriage or any other subject. Rather, in response to the claims by the Wirthlins and the Parkers that their free exercise rights had been violated, the Court found that 'the mere fact that a child is exposed on occasion in public school to a concept offensive to a parent's religious belief does not inhibit the parent from instructing the child differently.' Overall, the decision found that including a few books with depictions of same-sex couples in the curriculum did not violate the constitutional rights of students or parents - NOT that those books must be included or taught."**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF BOSTON AND ADOPTIONS

Camenker states that because of marriage equality in Massachusetts, "Homosexual 'married' couples can now demand to be allowed to adopt children—through any agency." He then implies that Catholic Charities of Boston was forced out of the adoption business. The truth is that because Catholic Charities received taxpayer funding, it was required to follow the state's non-discrimination policy and evaluate all people, including LGBT families, as potential parents.

Had Catholic Charities been willing to continue its program without taxpayer funds, they could have chosen to only work with heterosexual couples and could still be handling adoptions.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In a convoluted argument, Camenker asserts that "Every year more state money goes to deal with the high incidence of homosexual violence." He reaches this conclusion based on his assertion that "Massachusetts has one of the highest proportions of homosexuals living as couples in the country."

RightWingWatch deconstructs Camenker's argument, noting:

"Experts say that domestic violence has increased nationwide, likely connected to economic stress, Massachusetts included.

But Camenker says gay couples are responsible for the increase, arguing that "the rates of domestic violence among homosexual couples is many, many times that of heterosexual couples," which he

alleges is a manifestation of "the dysfunctional nature of homosexual relationships."

However, Jane Doe Inc. The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence writes, "Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals are abused at approximately the same levels as heterosexual couples, but the abuse may be exacerbated by social isolation caused by societal oppression and discrimination." The Center for American Progress also notes that "studies have found that domestic violence occurs among same-sex couples at comparable rates to straight couples," not "many, many times that of heterosexual couples" as Camenker claims (http://www.rightwingwatch.org/content/brian-camenker-blames-gay-marriage-spike-domestic-violence).

SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND CENSORSHIP

Camenker notes that, "A large, slick hardcover book celebrating Massachusetts homosexual marriages began to appear in many school libraries across the state. Titled Courting Equality, it was supplied to schools by a major homosexual activist organization." He implies that the book was forced on school libraries because of marriage equality.

As one of three authors of Courting Equality, I know first-hand the back story on this assertion. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) donated our book to Gay and Lesbian Straight Alliances (GSAs) in public schools. Some of the GSAs then donated the book, pending their librarian's acceptance of it, to the school library. Some school libraries bought their own copies. In no instance was our book forced into any school library.

In donating the book, PFLAG noted that *Courting Equality* tells the story of how LGBT people and their allies across the state used the democratic political process to expand civil rights for LGBT people. The donors thought this book would inspire teenagers to become active participants in democracy. They "offered" the book as a gift, and no high school GSA or library was forced to accept it.

Both school and public libraries remain free to accept as a part of their collections books that librarians (representing their communities) deem to be educational for their patrons.

CONCLUSION

As Hawai'i approaches another opportunity to extend marriage equality to all of its citizens, I hope that the nearly 10 years of marriage equality in Massachusetts will inspire legislators in Hawai'i to grant the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of marriage to all of its people. Marriage equality is a great success in Massachusetts. Do not be deceived by Camenker's distortions of the truth.

From: Kevin Fraser
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:51:28 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I firmly believe that families are the bedrock of our society, that's why I'm dismayed about the so-called 'pro-family' groups that are working so hard to make it difficult for some to form families with those they love.

Same sex couples deserve the same rights as everybody else - to marry the one they love. This right is so basic that - in my mind - it shouldn't even be a question.

It is time for Hawaii to stand up for equality - it's that simple.

Thank you

Kevin Fraser
300 Wai Nani Way
Apt 201
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Marilyn Seely
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:16:05 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

As a heterosexual I enjoy the freedom to marry and devote my life to whomever I choose. I strongly support these same rights for all folks no matter their sexual orientation. Increasing numbers of my age cohorts(70+) share this same viewpoint. This is clearly the right thing to do and will not in my opinion in any way damage the institution of marriage or the integrity of the family.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Marilyn Seely
46-402 Haiku Plantations Drive
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: David Deges
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:16:54 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Deges
P.O Box 492350
Keaau, HI 96749

From: Willy Shum
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:16:57 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am a same sex partner of 26 years to a Vietnam veteran, who is living with Agent Orange presumptive disabilities: Parkinson's Disease and ischemic heart disease, and combat-related disabilities: PTSD, back injuries among others. The every day care which I have been providing is no less than any other provided by straight spouses to their disabled love ones. It is vital for us to be protected as equal to straight surviving spouses. However, time is against us, and no one can tell what tomorrow will bring. Further time consumes in passing the Hawaii Marriage Equity Bill will in no doubt put our lives in the later years in question. Why deny the gay spouses over 1000 justified federal benefits already available to straight spouses? Did my partner not make the same life threatening sacrifices as his straight comrades?

President Obama had just made an executive decision on Sept 4, 2013 to dismantle federal barriers to same-sex marriages, announced that the Department of Veteran Affairs would immediately begin spousal benefits to gay men and lesbians despite a federal statute that limits such benefits to veterans' spouses who are of the opposite sexes.

Equality for all citizens is not a matter of majority rules, and civil rights are not matters that can be defined by religion. Marriage licenses are issued by the state not the church, which is precisely why America was founded on the separation of church and state. The bill as presented to you by the Governor has, to my belief, fairly protected the religious rights. This is a just bill which protects all concerns to the greatest degree possible. There will not be a perfect bill which offers 100% protection from future legal challenges. Thriving for that will only further delay the due process.

I urge you to follow our Commander-in-Chief's example in executing a speedy special session to legalize same-sex marriage. Stand up and be counted, vote for equality for all. Do the right thing. The time is NOW.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Willy Shum
Queen Emma Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Willy Shum
1200 Queen Emma Street
Apt. 3101
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Janaka Dillon
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:20:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Janaka Dillon
4178-c Bougainville circle
Kapolei, HI 96707

From:	Judy Kern
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	SUPPORT Marriage Equity!
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:29:24 PM

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol Auditorium
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chairperson Hee and Committee Members,
I am writing to urge passage of Senate Bill 1 during the 2013 Special Session of the Legislature.
The time is long overdue for Hawaii to take this step toward treating all people with fairness and equality under the law.
Please pass the Hawaii Marriage Equity Act of 2013.

Respectfully,
Judy Kern
1205 Kahului Street
Honolulu, HI 96825
jkern@hawaii.rr.com

From: John Kimmell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:30:28 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I never thought, in my life time, that I would see such a sweeping change in public attitude and government policy regarding LGBT issues. First, "Don't Ask Don't Tell" followed by gay men and women serving openly in our nation's military. Then, in June of this year, came the big 1 - 2, the U.S. Supreme Court's rulings on DOMA and California's Proposition 8. These rulings prompted changes in federal government policies, where more than 1000 benefits became available to same sex married couples that were previously enjoyed exclusively only by heterosexual married couples. The problem for us in Hawaii is that the federal government requires that you be legally married. Not in a domestic partnership, civil union or common law relationship, but legally married in the state in which you live and that state must allow and recognize same sex marriages.

I am a 70 year-old gay retired military officer in a 26 year same-sex relationship. My partner and I have been through the good times and the not so good times that all relationships, straight or gay, go through. We laugh; we cry and have our disagreements. We truly love each other and entered into a civil union last September. As could happen to any married couple, we are going through some of those more serious challenges that present themselves as we travel through life's journey together. A few years back I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and survived a heart attack. My partner has taken it upon himself to willingly see to my care and has been there by my side as my conditions worsen and as these diseases progress to their inevitable conclusion.

The Veterans Administration attributes these conditions to my exposure to the defoliant spray Agent Orange during my two combat tours in Vietnam where I served as a helicopter pilot. I am 100% disabled and fortunately receive medical care and a disability pension. Married couples in similar situations receive additional disability compensation and a life long survivor's pension when the veteran passes on. As you know, presently, under Hawaiian Law, we cannot marry. As a result, my partner and I are completely cut out of receiving any of these benefits. The same goes for Social Security and over 1000 other federal benefits that opposite sex couples enjoy that same sex couples do not unless they are really married. Is this equitable? NO, it is not!

Evaluate the irrational rhetoric; religious bias has no part in this issue no matter how loud they beat their drums. Please keep the church out of the debate. Remember the "tyranny of the majority" where "might does not make right". The issue is not what the Bible says but it is about civil rights as guaranteed under our Federal and Hawaii State Constitutions.

For those of you who favor the Relating to Equal Rights Bill as presented in the coming special legislative session, I urge you to hold your ground. Stay strong. Do not sway.

For those of you who are undecided or opposed to it, I urge you to reconsider your position and do the right thing. Stand up and be counted. What's fair is fair. What's right is right. Please, make your vote, YES for Equal RIghts.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
John A. Kimmell II

Queen Emma Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

John Kimmell
1200 Queen Emma Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Peter Pomeranze
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:33:36 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.
The argument that gay marriage threatens the sanctity of so called traditional marriage just does not hold water.It is a hidden homophobic comment used as an excuse.If "straight" marriage is a sanctity than nothing could possibly harm it.The Supreme Court agrees,The President agrees,it is time Hawaii took a leadership role and reflects all of its people.

Peter Pomeranze
POB 842
Kapaau, HI 96755

From: Taresa Roy
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:39:47 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Taresa Roy
94-260 Leowahine St #48
Waipahu, HI 96797

From: Shannrae Isabel
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:44:33 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shannrae Isabel
68-3831 Lua Kula Rd, Fwy Terrace
#M102 - PO BOX 383762
Waikoloa, HI 96738

From: Joshua Michaels
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: I support marriage equality, and you should too!
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:44:19 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Re:Marriage Equality, Equal Rights

Dear Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 1. Marriage equality in Hawaii is long overdue. Given our state's long history of promoting civil rights and equality for all people, we must act now and give Hawaii's gay and lesbian families the same rights which we all enjoy. From John Burns to William S. Richardson to Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka, we have recognized that the government's first responsibility is to make sure we hold fast to our nation's founding creed – "all men [and women] are created equal". Our entire Congressional delegation, as well as the vast majority of our state leadership, supports gay marriage. Some have called for a referendum – to "let the people decide." That is a dangerous thought. Civil rights and equality for the minority should not be left up to the whim of the majority. We have seen throughout American history that such decisions can have devastating consequences.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Some people claim that marriage equality will harm the "sanctity of marriage." As a straight person, I find that notion laughable. Gay marriage will only affect gay people who get married. If you think gays getting married will harm your marriage, your marriage probably has bigger problems.

Marriage equality is correct from a moral, political, and civil rights standpoint. It will bring us among the ranks of the 14 states and the District of Columbia which have already come down firmly on the right side of history. Plus, it will help the perception of our state and provide a boost to our economy. According to a study by the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization, "…marriage equality is likely to lead to substantial increases in Hawai'i visitor arrivals, visitor spending, and state and county general excise tax revenues due to pent-up demand for same-sex marriage. Over the 2014-2016 period, [it is] estimate[d] that additional visitor spending due to marriage equality would amount to $217 million. The additional gains in visitor spending are time-sensitive: Spending by U.S. same-sex couples and their guests on honeymoons and marriages will be diverted to other states until Hawai'i recognizes marriage equality."

Moreover, opponents of same-sex marriage base their position only on fundamentalist theology and unverified pseudoscience. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. Marriage equality will not harm society. It will not harm children. Children need love and support. As Justice Kennedy pointed out when the Supreme Court struck down DOMA, children with gay parents who can't get married are discriminated against because the government is telling them they are not a "real" family. Civil Unions are also not enough. We rightly abolished and condemned the notion of "separate but equal" several decades ago.

None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Remember, not even 50 years ago, interracial marriage was still illegal in many American states. Today, those opponents of interracial marriage are rightly and widely condemned as backwards, bigoted, and racist. Like opponents of same-sex marriage, they based most of their justification on religion ("that's the way God intended it") and pseudo -science (race-mixing hurts children and families). Let's hope we don't look back on Hawaii the same way in 50 years.

The way some people have dedicated their lives to opposing marriage equality is truly frightening. Working so hard to make sure some people can't have the same rights you cherish is not only un-American, it is un-Christian.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

Aloha,

Josh Michaels

Joshua Michaels
PO Box 2005
Aiea, HI 96701

From: Tom LaBelle
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:49:41 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am tired of Congress picking and choosing when they want to serve their constituents. When it came to extended background checks, 85% of the country was in favor yet Congress voted overwhelmingly against it. And do I need to remind you what recently happened with the recent government shutdown (yes, I was affected).

Please listen to the people now. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tom LaBelle
1090 Ala Napunani
105
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: Hala"ikai Patterson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:02:28 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Hala'ikai Patterson
PO Box 383762
Waikoloa, HI 96738

From: Julie and Thomas Pasquale
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:05:59 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

This is a basic civil rights issue.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

This issue is no different than past laws outlawing marriage between couples of different races or religions. It is the role of government to assure equal rights for all couples who want to make a marriage commitment.

It is time to put this issue behind us and allow equal rights to marry to all couples.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Julie and Thomas Pasquale
PO Box 743
Naalehu, HI 96772

From: Roy Burt
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:22:09 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My partner and I have been in a loving committed relationship for almost 35 years. Do we not deserve equality?

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Roy Burt
415 Dairy Rd E-225
Kahului, HI 96732

From: Catherine Clement
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:28:05 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am a heterosexual mother of 3 heterosexual adult children. I'm also a relative and friend of several gay and lesbian couples whom I love dearly. It matters to me that my family members and friends have the same rights to marriage that my children and I do - the very same rights.

It matters to me that Hawaii stands at the front of the line of states that are legalizing marriage equality, rather than falling to the back of the line with the bigoted states.

It matters to me that Hawaii opens up the doors to the economic opportunities that will follow when all people are welcome to marry here.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Catherine Clement
PO Box 1450
Kilauea, HI 96754

From: c wittke
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:29:33 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

c wittke
53 Pu'unene Aver
kaului, HI 96732

From:	Robert Walls
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:50:43 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
"Beware of false prophets" and "What would Jesus do?" are better guides for our Representatives than the Pastors Roundtable‘s highly presumptive and negative statement of "God‘s plan."
In fact, marriage equality will allow all of us to live our lives as loving families.
My family, like many others now and in decades past, was torn apart by needless discrimination and prejudice.
When I was 12, and my caring big brother Don was only 17, he was driven out of the family by fear and ignorance - despite his kindness and many talents. Nearly 50 years passed before his death, after which I finally learned of his amazing life from his loving lifetime partner. What was taken from my family was priceless and can never be reclaimed.
NO, our loss was not according to God‘s plan! Hawaii‘s legislators and citizens must beware the highly funded false prophets who are now so stridently predicting doom. Yes, NOW is the time for equality!

Robert G. Walls, LCDR USN (RET)
46-420 Hololio Street, Kaneohe, HI 96744

Robert Walls
46420 Hololio St
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Robert Walls
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:44:01 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robert Walls
46420 Hololio St
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: David Dodson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:53:53 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government is currently in direct violation of the US Constitution's "equal protection" clause as well as several others. Never mind the unfairness of it all. We are forced to pay extra for the same things... taxes, health care, memberships etc, solely because we can not legally create a family in the eyes of the Federal Government.

What bother's me the most is the errant belief that we don't have children. In fact we do. I raised 3 foster children and would have adopted another had I had the financial support of a partner at the time to take the time off for the process.

Our children are being disadvantaged because of the added expenses as well as the lack of stability afforded by legal marriage. Our families are being hurt solely because a group of people decided we didn't deserve recognition even though the state supreme court ruled otherwise in '95. I testified before the committee hearings at the time and I can honestly say I have never been more disappointed in the political process as I was then. After all, when did I ever get the chance to vote on YOUR marriage.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Dodson
12-4761 Old Kalapana Rd
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: troy abraham
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:57:54 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

troy abraham
485 waianuenue ave apt b114
k248
hilo, HI 96720

From: Vanessa Ott
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: PLEASE Support SB1 - Equal Rights for Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:01:35 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to ask that you support, and encourage others to support, SB1, the bill that will allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Long before we were married, my husband and I registered as domestic partners as an act of solidarity with the GLBT community. If they couldn't marry, why should we? We finally compromised our ethics and got married because of the many benefits that marriage offers, but we continued our fight for marriage equity for everyone. Much like ending Jim Crow laws that prohibited people of different races from marrying, the time has come to end this discriminatory practice.

Please put Hawaii at the forefront of this nation's struggle for equal rights under the law and pass SB-1. Hawaii's ohana and aloha should be real, legal, put into practice.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Vanessa Ott
94-5879 Kau Wela Place
#2901
Naalehu, HI 96772

From: Mariah Ancona
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:12:21 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mariah Ancona
73-1059ahulani st
kailua kona, HI 96740

From: Shelly Bonoan
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:14:14 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

As a partner in a binational couple, the only way we are able to stay together in the United States and be with our ohana is through marriage. However, we must marry outside of HI in order to legalize and validate our commitment. Our families cannot join us, as the expenses are beyond everyone's means. Inequality in HI not only hurts us, but our extended family too.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Shelly Bonoan
PO Box 1251
Honolulu, HI 96807

From:	Mark Levin
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	In strong support of SB1 (testimony attached as .pdf file)
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:20:04 PM
Attachments:	10.28.13 MAL testimony on SB1.pdf

Please see my testimony, attached as a .pdf file.

--

Mark Levin
Professor of Law
P (808) 956-3302 | **F** (808) 956-5569 | **E** levin@hawaii.edu |
SSRN: http://ssrn.com/author=624452

University of Hawai'i at Manoa · William S. Richardson School of Law · 2515 Dole Street, Room 245 · Honolulu, HI 96822-2328

* Affiliations are given for identification purposes only. Opinions presented here are personal views and not the official views of the University of Hawai‘i or any other organization or entity.

From: M Yano
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:19:50 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

For couples and families in Hawaii to have benefits that legal marriage entails, they have to fly to another state or country (this costs thousands of dollars, plus time off work/school for the kids, extra planning etc.) and have a ceremony where family/friends are unlikely to attend, in a completely foreign environment alone or without the support/celebration they might normally get at home, to get those rights. It would be much easier, less costly, and emotionally taxing if all LGBT could get married at home (in this case, Hawaii), or anywhere they please.

Until all states grant the recognition of LGBT marriage, people will still be uprooted or have to travel, even if temporarily, to get that recognition. Some LGBT families also are economically disadvantaged, and may not even have the means to travel to get married. Some people, due to ill health or disabilities, are also unable to travel beyond the islands to marry the ones they love, even though they may already live with them in this state.

Also, HI is losing a tremendous amount of profit that could be made because LGBT couples are flying to the mainland to have their ceremonies, and LGBT tourists are choosing other states as well.

Therefore, from I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

M Yano
PO Box 1251
Honolulu, HI 96807

From: Eliza Goodhue
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:24:52 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Eliza Goodhue
17a Nana Pono Pl.
Kula, HI 96790

From: Eliza Goodhue
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:24:49 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Eliza Goodhue
17a Nana Pono Pl.
Kula, HI 96790

From: Douglass Bartlett
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:37:34 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

PS
I testified in person in favor of marriage equality in 1994 before senator Tom et. all at Kahakai El. School in Kailua Kona Big Island. It took a lot of courage to do this because we were outnumbered about 50 to 1. Most testifiers were born again Christians saying outrageous, hurtful things about us. We had to SIt and listen to this for hours before we were allowed to speak. My lover had just died the month before so this is what emboldened me to expose myself to the hate and vitriol and possible discrimination in my job. How dare anyone say that I should not have been allowed to marry the wonderful person that I had just lost!

Douglass Bartlett
PO Box 861
Kailua Kona, HI 96745

From: Valerie Wickert
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:48:50 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I find it difficult to believe that we, here in the State of Hawaii, in 2013, must pass a bill granting our citizens basic human rights.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Valerie Wickert
1330 Wilder #103
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Johnathon Hawley-Molloy
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony in strong support of SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:03:26 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My husband and I have been Kailua residents for six years. Two years ago, we got married in Washington, DC, because we wanted the marriage license that is offered there--NOT a civil union. Civil unions do not have the same federal benefits as marriage, which is important to us as a military family. More importantly, the term "civil union" lacks the history, meaning, and recognition that comes instantly with a marriage license. We want the state to put its stamp of recognition that our family is equally important and equally valued!

The importance of our marriage has increased hugely for us this year, when we became the parents of our beautiful 7-month old daughter, Kylie. She deserves to grow up with a family that has all the rights, benefits, responsibilities, and recognition of any other. There are thousands of keiki in Hawaii whose families deserve no less.

To those who oppose our marriage on religious grounds, I would like to reassure you that we have no desire to impose our values on you, your family, or your church. We hope you would show our family the same consideration, and let the state give our family equal status under the law as is constitutionally guaranteed. The proposed law offers appropriate protections to religious organizations, within the bounds of well-established public accommodations laws. If marriage equality comes to Hawaii via a court decision, as is likely if the legislature fails to act, there will be no such protections in the law.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Johnathon Hawley-Molloy
739A Kahoa Dr
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Joshua Hawley-Molloy
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony in support of SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:04:29 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My husband and I have been Kailua residents for six years. Two years ago, we got married in Washington, DC, because we wanted the marriage license that is offered there--NOT a civil union. Civil unions do not have the same federal benefits as marriage, which is important to us as a military family. More importantly, the term "civil union" lacks the history, meaning, and recognition that comes instantly with a marriage license. We want the state to put its stamp of recognition that our family is equally important and equally valued!

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Joshua Hawley-Molloy
739A Kahoa Dr
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Steven Olivieri
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:38:41 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Steven Olivieri
Po box 532363
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Amy Agbayani
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:39:33 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I respectfully urge you to support Marriage Equality SB1. This is a civil rights issue for equality and fairness and also separation of church and state.

Our society must not discriminate against any individual or group. I was raised a Catholic and I believe, like our Pope, that we must be inclusive, kind and fair. This bill provides adequate accommodation to religious institutions. Religious facilities will need to meet same protections and anti-discrimination requirements in current law for rentals.

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Amy Agbayani
3432 B-1 Kalihi St
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: Angelica Calaro
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:41:41 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Angelica Calaro
4207 Keaka Drive
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: Carol Puette
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:42:21 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Carol Puette
3363A Keanu Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Barry Ayers
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:43:52 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Supporting SB1 is a vote for equal rights. The Supreme Court has recently ruled against discrimination. The great State of Hawaii should not discriminate either.

Barry Ayers
3136 S. Kihei Rd.
Kihei, HI 96753

From: Kandi Rothbaum
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Marriage Equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:56:20 PM

To the elected officials of my state of Hawaii

I am writing to add my voice to the support of marriage equality for all residents of Hawaii.

I believe that people should be judged by their humanity, their contributions to society, commitment to family, children and community.

What gives anyone the right to claim their way is the only way, the RIGHT way. I have many gay and lesbian friends and love them for the same reasons I love my straight friends. They are good people, trying to do their best everyday.

Money streaming in from the mainland to defend traditional marriage, really? I'm sorry, these people are no better as human beings, parents, citizens than our gay and lesbian citizens.

For the religious right wingers fighting to the death to give these people the same rights they I would just like to say. Do unto others. Maybe next time there will be a bill to deny rights to fat white guys.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion. Please follow your heart. Maybe some day your own children will be denied such a basic right.

Kandi Rothbaum

Sent from my iPad

From: Christine David
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:53:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Christine David
1180 Mokuhano St
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Susan Gouveia
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:59:16 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

I have been married for 27 years to my husband, whom I love and feel my son, Kyle, and all others who love someone, should have this same opportunity, whether they are gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgender.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Susan Gouveia
2440 Lilikoi Road
Haiku, HI 96708

From: Suzette Gavin
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:58:13 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Suzette Gavin
1371 Kukana Place
Kailua, HI 96734

From: T Gillespie
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:09:20 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

T Gillespie
73-4398B
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From: Tanya Guting
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:23:08 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tanya Guting
1485 Kaumoli St
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: Sen. Clayton Hee
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: FW: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 3:21:32 PM

From: Terea Macomber [anaterea@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:57 PM
To: All Senators
Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

Being from Las Vegas where marriage ceremonies are overseen by terrible Elvis impersonators, conducted in drive-thrus, or even held at a strip club; I am aware of what damage can be done to the institution of marriage. One's sexuality is not one of them.

I've always seen Hawaii as a place of unity, generosity, and 'ohana. Nature's forces came together and created these beautiful islands; the generous rainfall and tropical temperatures allowed for a beautiful array of plants and animals which should all be reflected in society.

Inhibiting couples to get married because of their sexual orientation is just as an offense if the government was still keeping different races from marrying. If this was still true, my Mom(black) and My Dad(white) would never have married and we all know where I would be...non existent.

I look forward to being witness to your history changing decision supporting Equal Marriage. Thank You.

Terea Macomber
PO Box 22651
Honolulu, HI 96823

From: Thomas Mahon
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:51:07 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I think all couples in Hawaii should be able to marry and receive the benefits that the Supreme Court and federal government now provide to gay and straight married couples. It's both fair and inevitable.

My son and his classmates are watching this special session with interest. There is a lot of support in his age group for gay marriage. Some of them will be voting in the 2014 elections and all of them will be voting in 2016.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thomas Mahon
2119 Kaloa Way
Honolulu, HI 96822

From:	Tiana Dole
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 11:56:35 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tiana Dole
837 Waiaka Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: Tiana Fontanilla
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:59:19 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tiana Fontanilla
1649 Kewalo St
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Timothy McCormick
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong SUPPORT for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:33:18 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB1.

With the recent US Supreme Court on DOMA, pending legal challenges, and rapidly changing public opinion on the issue of marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples, it seems clear that it is simply a matter of time that, one way or another, gay and lesbian couple will be permitted to marry in Hawaii.

It is also an important issue of fairness to allow people to marry without regard to gender.

With 14 other states and DC already allowing same sex couples to marry, Hawaii missed the opportunity to be a true leader on this issue. It is not, however, too late to ensure that Hawaii is on the right side of history on this question of fairness and equal treatment. Please pass SB1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Timothy McCormick
4326 Aukai Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: TL OSHELL
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:01:50 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

This is me now...

You know what? I am really getting sick and tired of BEGGING "godfearin' folk" for my Civil Rights to be acknowledged. Are we living in the Dark Ages?

My partner and I have been together for 22yrs. We have had a business in Hawaii for 20yrs. We have paid our taxes faithfully for that entire time...both business and personal. We are NOT second-class citizens, we do NOT pay second-class taxes so we are NOT interested in second-class, "SEPERATE-BUT-EQUAL" status like the state offered crumb of "civil union".

Unlike the churches who sponsor the smiling hate-groups lathered up against the reality of our EQUALITY as guaranteed under the FOURTEENTH Amendment of the United States Constitution. We are taxed and NOT represented. The Church industry is represented and does NOT pay taxes! This has been a classic case of "Taxation WITHOUT Representation".

The Hawaiian Islands have a deep and shameful history of disenfranchisement of many of its people by the foreigners who colonised here. Let this NOT carry into modern times. Respect that this is NOT a THEOCRACY. This is not Vatican City or Mecca. This is a democratic republic that respects its founding documents and their amendments to include EVERY American citizen. Never is it correct to put the Rights of a MINORITY group up for a MAJORITY vote. THAT WOULD BE CRAZY, regressive, and entirely disengenuous.

Over a third of the states DO respect our U.S. Constitution and the June 26, 2013 SUPREME COURT RULING in regards to WINDSOR vs. U.S.
(http://www.marriageequality.org/national-map)

It is truly amazing that the so-called ALOHA State is not among these. Hawaii is currently in legal conflict with that ruling and therefor vulnerable to lawsuits challenging the error. The state logo would have to be changed to reflect this; "The Aloha State for Some".

Back in 1992 when we were the most forward-looking state in the union and we really WERE the Aloha State...and then the fundamentalist missionaries came pouring in with their hate-filled rhetoric and tons of MONEY. Now the Catholic church among others, is pouring out-of-state cash in to once again with acrimony target a part of our island ohana. Bigots thrive from division and blacklisting of people they do not even know. Why are they trying to ruin our lives? Why will they not be happy until we are miserable? What did we ever do to them? Because hate binds together the haters. The churches should find their passion and unifying force elsewhere. Perhaps like Jesus, in GOOD deeds. They should also PAY TAXES if they want a voice in government. To do otherwise is actually UNCONSTITUTIONAL. (if you care)

So, if you are waiting for us to humble ourselves, and to bow and scrape before you for our guaranteed CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO FORM A CONTRACT WITH OUR GOVERNMENT AND THE PERSON WE LOVE like everyone else....forget it. I have grown old waiting for you all to do the right thing.

We have waited over two decades. We are weary of defending our very right to exist. We are weary of ignorant, hateful and very un-American wealthy mainland church-groups who deny Jesus message of Love thy Neighbor in favor of Old Testament fire and brimstone and 'Kill the Gays' legislation in other countries. We do not tell them how to worship or not eat shellfish (Lv 11:9-10), they should not tell us how to love. It is not their kuleana.

No longer stand for exclusion over inclusion. No longer stand in the way of progress and OUR HUMAN CIVIL RIGHTS. It would be a waste if as in some other backward states your misdeed has to be corrected in the Courts with an expensive lawsuit.

p.s. no person wants to be married in an unloving church that does not welcome them...so that is a strawman argument.

TL OSHELL
POBOX1124
Kula, HI 96790

From: Travis Knott
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:42:37 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am a strong believer in the benefits of marriage. I grew up in a Christian household and attended more weddings than I could possibly count. I have witnessed the strength that comes to families where a marriage is involved. To stand before your family and friends and God to declare your love for someone, to declare your eternal commitment and support is indeed a spiritual moment in one's life. However this does not mean that it is a religious moment. It does not belong to any one religion or faith. It cannot be owned by Christians or Buddhists or Muslims or Atheists or any other secular religion. It is owned by the people involved, the two who are publicly declaring their commitment to each other. It is this public and legal commitment to stick together to build a family, a unit, which gives the union its strength.

This bill to allow people to create strong families is not a religious one. It simply cannot be. Some churches allow it, some religions frown on it. There is no consensus, therefore it must be removed from the equation. It only leaves the reality that these families already exist. No amount of sign waving and phone banking is going to stop people from forming these strong family units. We are simply asking for the dignity to protect the families we have already created.

My partner and I have been together for nearly 20 years. We do not have children. We are a part of the community where we live; we own our home, we are known at the bank, at the grocery store, at the restaurants that we frequent, we pay taxes (a lot of taxes!). The fact that we are together has no impact on our community other than to strengthen it.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Travis Knott
1109 Kalihiwai Pl
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: troy abraham
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:38:54 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

troy abraham
485 waianuenue ave apt b114
k248
hilo, HI 96720

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: deptofsmurfology@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 6:52:08 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/24/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Vera Neckermann	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I hereby testify that I support equal rights and the right for marriage for gay and lesbian people of Hawai'i and the entire planet. Mahalo.

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From: William Copeland
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:26:27 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Nothing Says Family Like Marriage

This month we celebrate two anniversaries, the day we met 37 years ago and began to fall in love, and the day 22 years ago when we moved to our adoptive home of Hawaii. We would love to add a new anniversary date to our calendar this year – the day we can finally marry.

Over 37 years of life's ups and downs, we have come to rely upon each other. We've both had some health scares that remind us that time is precious. Of course, we still sometimes argue – usually about who takes out the trash. But most days, when we are cooking together, simply hanging out in our yard or playing with our cats Mai and Tai, we look at each other and can't believe how lucky we are to have that special someone to spend our lives with.

Along this journey, through the good times and the bad, we have never ceased wanting to be recognized as a legitimate family. We do, of course, have a civil union. And that's nice. We appreciate that recognition. But it's simply not the same. We were both raised in Texas with traditional families, so for us nothing says family like marriage.

Marriage would allow us access to all sorts of federal rights and benefits, like being able to file joint taxes. But more importantly, it would allow us to say to our friends, our families and our community "this is my husband," and for people to instantly understand just what that means.

We've witnessed many friends, family, neighbors and coworkers reconsider their position on marriage equality over the years. As they've gotten to know us and other same sex couples they've come to realize allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry does not change the definition of marriage for anyone else, it simply allows more caring and committed couples to access marriage.

When we met 37 years ago, we didn't know what our futures held. We did not foresee a day when so many states would vote to approve same sex marriage. We didn't anticipate a ruling from the US Supreme Court or the opportunity to marry in our adopted home state. We simply knew that we wanted to go through life together.

It's our sincere hope that our elected leaders will support the freedom to marry during this month's special session.

We know that we could travel to California or other states to get married. But this is our home, and this is where we want our relationship to be recognized for what it is.

If the Legislature approves marriage equality, we will be adding one more very important anniversary to our calendar.

Wil Copeland and Dale Smith

William Copeland
494-A Hoala Drive
Kihei, HI 96753

From: William Haines
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:18:10 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My partner and I were both born and raised on Maui, and my partner is Native Hawaiian. We both feel this bill is extremely important, providing basic freedoms that have not been available to us in the past. Civil unions were an incredible step for Hawaii, providing the same rights as marriage on the State level. We felt very honored, proud, and touched that our legislature supported them. However, the one limitation with these unions is that they are not recognized on the federal level. Marriages would allow same sex couples the same federal protections that heterosexual couples receive, now that DOMA has been repealed. This is especially important when it comes to immigration law. When one partner in a gay relationship is not a US citizen, they do not have the option of marrying their partner in order to remain together in one country. This is heartbreaking when one of the partner's home countries has policies that vilify or criminalize homosexuality.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

William Haines
1541 Dominis St. #905
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Sen. Clayton Hee
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: FW: Support for SB1 - Justice Delayed is Justice Denied
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 3:32:45 PM

-----Original Message-----
From: William Musick [mailto:wcmmb@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:19 PM
To: All Senators
Subject: Support for SB1 - Justice Delayed is Justice Denied

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in support of SB 1.

"Justice delayed is justice denied"...This concept of traces its roots from the ethical and moral principles of the rabbinic literature of the first century BCE, reappears in the Magna Carta in 1215, and in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail", smuggled out of jail in 1963. Legislators wishing to further delay a decision on this question using smoke screens related to concerns about the validity of a special session or wanting to submit the issue to a vote of the people are simply attempting to delay the inevitable, which effectively prohibits Hawaiian citizens and their families from accessing rights provided to them in the Supreme Court's decision earlier this year in United States v. Windsor. We've seen far too many occasions in recent years of legislatures "kicking the can down the road." Please do the right thing and make a decision now, and then move on in the upcoming legislative session with all of the other important issues facing our State ….Pono kaulike!

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

William Musick
2130 Haena Dr
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: William Schmidt
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:24:55 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

William Schmidt
55 South Kukui St
202
honolulu, HI 96819

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: nalikotea@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:36:58 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Liam Ball	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I see this issue as an issue of taxpayer's rights. I believe all couples who pay taxes should be entitled to equal treatment under the law. It's also clear to me that religion should not have any control over government. Thanks for considering my point of view. Aloha from Maui.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: brienm@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 2:31:55 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Brien Matson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support marriage equality. This is a legal rights and a human rights issue, and it is tragic that some of my friends, co-workers and relatives don't have the same rights that I do.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: ericnkristy@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 2:40:30 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Eric Lum	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: jrkeoneakapu@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)*
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 3:46:32 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
JR Keoneakapu Williams	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	jankuester1@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 5:03:30 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Janet Kuester	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Re: Bill #SB1 Hawaii State Capitol 415 S. Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 I am writing in opposition to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013. According to an article on page A-13 of the September 20 edition of the Wall Street Journal, same-sex marriage legislation has had a devastating impact on citizens who decline to serve same-sex ceremonies due to religious conflicts. For example: • A florist in Richland, Washington, was sued by the State Attorney General and the American Civil Liberties Union. • A Christian couple that owns a bakery in Gresham, Oregon closed their shop because the State launched an investigation into their religious objections. • The New Mexico Supreme Court upheld a $6,637 fine against Elane Photography, stating that being “compelled by law to compromise the very religious beliefs that inspire their lives” was “the price of citizenship." • Many County recorders, magistrates, judges, town clerks, and justices of the peace in Iowa, Massachusetts, and New York have resigned because they were told that refusing to perform services for same-sex couples will result in criminal prosecutions for misdemeanors or other sanctions. This legislation will have little effect on the civil rights of the estimated 5% of Hawaii's residents who identify themselves as gay or lesbian, because they can travel to any one of the fourteen states or the District of Columbia, which have adopted same-sex marriage legislation, to get married. However, it will have a catastrophic effect on the First Amendment rights of the 95% of Hawaii's residents who identify themselves as religious. For these reasons, I humbly request that you VOTE IN OPPOSITION to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Sincerely, Janet Kuester Kea'au

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	kahunakerry@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:52:31 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kerry Petersen	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The current Act as written has poorly chosen language guaranteed to subject the State of Hawaii to a discrimination lawsuit that can easily be rectified with a better choice of wording. The Act does have good religious institutional protection written except for one clause dealing with religious facilities. To qualify for indemnification, the facility must meet three qualifications, two of which are "non-profit" and "use for religious purposes." This is great, however, there is a third clause [572-G (a) 2] that says the facility has to be restricted to the use of only its members. This in effect says that if a religious institution has any outreach to the community (even if non-profit and for religious purposes) such has blood drives, voting stations, care for the helpless and needy, proselyting of new adherents, emergency shelter, youth activities, etc. -- then that institution has no exclusion nor protection under the law. To include this clause would in fact abridge the freedoms of religion and assembly enshrined in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. A vote for this flawed waiver will irresponsibly open the State up for lawsuits. Since the desire for sexual liberty, right or wrong, is now put into conflict with religious and assembly liberties -- the Act in effect discriminates against religion by unreasonably ignoring redaction of this offending clause. Unfortunately, clause 572-G (a) 2 is specific and not broadly written in its intent nor language. Clause 2, as currently written is very strict when it says: "For solemnization of marriages pursuant to this chapter, the religious organization restricts use of the religious facility to its members." Notice the absolute restriction only to the facility's members. Technically one non-member crossing the threshold of the facility waives the facility's waiver per the Act. Many representatives have responded to the language of this clause with comments similar to the following: "If, for example, a religious organization allowed the public to use a meeting room for community meetings, allowing these community meetings does not mean that the space must be open to the public for all other potential uses (like weddings). It is also possible that some buildings or spaces may be open to the public while others are not." Accordingly, may I please ask for the Legislature's consideration of inclusion of language similar to the following: "Occasional use for blood drives, scout meetings, etc., does not make the church a 'public accommodation' facility. Only if the church rents out their hall routinely to any public event, then it falls under the public accommodations rules, where the facility

cannot discriminate. If a church uses its facilities primarily for church-related activities, then it will be able to choose not to allow use for same-gender marriages." This language strengthens the resolve to protect the rights of all citizens of the state of Hawaii. To enact a "non-discriminatory" law for our gay neighbors that in fact goes too far by discriminating against another is disingenuous at best. Someone's freedom to swing their arm ends where another's nose begins. This is a "win-win" for everyone. It will also protect the State of Hawaii from lawsuits from conflicts with the First Amendment Rights of the Constitution.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: ekeawe@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:58:58 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Eric K. Keawe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: hwndiver@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:14:27 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Daron Makaiwi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Committee Members, Regarding SB1 relating to equal rights and marriage equality, I urge you to please NOT support this bill. I ask you to consider making amendments to this bill to protect religious freedom rights. Thank you, Daron Makaiwi

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: cms23@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:28:13 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
catherine kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha, please protect our religious freedom. Christian churches like ours are adamantly opposed to same sex marriage. It is not our attempt to be cruel to those with other lifestyle choices, but a belief that has been taught from the beginning of time. Society changes do not warrant a doctrine change in Christianity. Churches should be exempt from this law as we have a doctrine that we hold dear that marriage is ordained of God and reserved between a man and woman.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: prado.eric@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:30:06 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Eric Prado	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I believe that marriage equality is a secular issue and not a religious issue. Our government is set up to protect the minority from the majority based on rights guaranteed by the constitution and not the bible. Hawai'i should join the wave sooner rather then later of states who support marriage equality. This would make Hawai'i a more valuable market for wedding tourism and bring more money to the state.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: tardend@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:34:48 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Thomas A. Dickey	GLBT Caucus	Support	No

Comments: Our Declaration of Independence says that all men are created equal, and that they are endowed with the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Our Constitution is an imperfect document. It took a bloody civil war to affirm that all men are indeed equal. It took 130-some years after the Constitution was written for an amendment to allow women to have the right to vote. I believe that marriage is a pursuit of happiness issue and that it is the right of all citizens. I support marriage equality and urge the legislature to pass SB-1 as soon as possible.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: cms23@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:44:34 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
catherine kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am oppsed to this bill, marriage is ordained of god, this is such a crucial issue and shouldn't be expedited through the legislature. Let the people decide, representatives to the legislature have differing moral views from their people. Protect our religious rights, it is fundamental to my beliefs and to the foundation of our society.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: tonga7@go.byuh.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:06:46 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Latu S. Tonga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a citizen I oppose the Same-Sex Marriage Bill

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: ulutonga@go.byuh.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:10:56 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
uluakimata tonga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a citizen of this country and resident of Hawaii, I oppose the Same-Sex Marriage Bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: lyano1@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:12:55 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
lori yano	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I feel everyone should have a chance at true happiness

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: abthornock@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:21:01 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Ann Thornock	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am very much against legalizing same gender relationships as "marriage." I firmly believe that marriage is a sacred obligation between a man and a woman. Those who choose a same gender relationship have protection under the civil unions law why now is marriage necessary other than to force those who do not agree with same gender relationships to be forced to accept them.

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To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: surfer48@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:22:51 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Joyce	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a citizen of Hawaii I believe in the democratic process; it is my hope that you do as well and will give the people of our great state a chance to vote on this important issue. This is a great burden/decision that you will be making for the people that will effect many generations to come. Please do not decide this yourself get the voters involved so that it will truly be a decision by and for the people. Thank you!

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To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: soccertriplet624@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:31:24 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Emma Kawamoto	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Subject: Special Session On Same Sex Marriage Dear Honorable Senator or Dear Representative: As a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue. As a voter in the State of Hawaii, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process. It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent. In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the voters of the State of Hawaii. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that He will continue to encourage you in all that you do. God Bless, Emma

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To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: soccertriplet624@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:31:25 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Emma Kawamoto	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Subject: Special Session On Same Sex Marriage Dear Honorable Senator or Dear Representative: As a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue. As a voter in the State of Hawaii, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process. It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent. In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the voters of the State of Hawaii. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that He will continue to encourage you in all that you do. God Bless, Emma

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Cc: soccertriplet624@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:31:26 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Emma Kawamoto	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Subject: Special Session On Same Sex Marriage Dear Honorable Senator or Dear Representative: As a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue. As a voter in the State of Hawaii, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process. It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent. In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the voters of the State of Hawaii. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that He will continue to encourage you in all that you do. God Bless, Emma

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:31:31 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Emma Kawamoto	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Subject: Special Session On Same Sex Marriage Dear Honorable Senator or Dear Representative: As a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue. As a voter in the State of Hawaii, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process. It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent. In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the voters of the State of Hawaii. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that He will continue to encourage you in all that you do. God Bless, Emma

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: jokamura@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:32:20 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Justin Okamura	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I wholeheartedly support Equality for all in Hawaii.

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To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: hawaiian.affairs.caucus@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:35:54 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Hawaiian Affairs Caucus	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Since I know you folks rarely read testimony, i'll keep this short. I am writing to express my full SUPPORT for marriage equality. Native Hawaiians have historically and traditionally embraced the concept of relationships among all people, including between members of the same gender and sex. I urge the committee to support this measure. me ke aloha, Kuhio

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: vanessa.curtis@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:44:15 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Molly Curtis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am in opposition of SB 1. In my faith, an article of faith states "we claim the privilege of worshiping almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience and allow all men the same privilege. Let them worship how where and what they may." We believe in this principle in word and in deed. We have fought for our religious freedom before ... Passing this marriage act too hastily infringes upon the freedom of religion in allowing us the option of carrying out our business practices in a way that reflects our religious beliefs. In following the constitution, we believe that all men are free. In our 13th article of faith, we assert "if there is anything virtuous, lovely, of good report, or praiseworthy, we seek after these things." But there are certain actions that would lead to a breakdown of the fundamental family unit, which would cause greater consequences than we can fathom at this time. I believe that we have a Heavenly Father who loves us and watches out for us and that He has ordained as sacred marriage between a man and a woman for a reason. That is the most effective, efficient and positive way to live and grow and be successful and happy in this beautiful world He has given us. I acknowledge that, in the past, the people of Hawaii have voted to allow the legislature to vote on this issues without opening it to the public as a referendum, but I would ask that you open it once again for public vote. I believe it is the will of the people that marriage remain between a man and a woman.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: robinsoncastro@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:51:57 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Danny Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support the passage of SB 1. As someone who has been in a same sex relationship for 38 years, I believe I am entitled to equal rights as guaranteed by the U.S. and Hawaii State constitutions.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: dwatase@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:54:12 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Deneen Watase	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Subject: Special Session On Same Sex Marriage Dear Honorable Senator or Dear Representative: As a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue. As a voter in the State of Hawaii, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process. It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent. In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the voters of the State of Hawaii. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that He will continue to encourage you in all that you do. God Bless, Deneen Watase

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	tammiecullen@ymail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:59:36 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
tammie cullen	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Subject: Special Session On Same Sex Marriage Dear Honorable Senator or Dear Representative: As a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue. As a voter in the State of Hawaii, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process. It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent. In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the voters of the State of Hawaii. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that He will continue to encourage you in all that you do. God Bless, Tammie Cullen

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: deborah.arendale@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:02:47 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Deborah Arendale	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to testify in STRONG SUPPORT of SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: tarashiro@atahawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:05:07 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Terrance Arashiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am strongly opposed to SB 1 re: Marriage Equality. I am disappointed in our leaders for considering this measure without letting the people decide as was done in '98. I do not agree with the statement "Justice delayed is justice denied" in this particular case. Justice not well considered is not justice at all. I am also not for the bill being brought up in regular session until the people decide because our legislators handling of the civil union bill approved at the 11th hour with limited public debate. Let us petition our Federal government to clean up the Federal benefits for social security, veteran's benefits and others. Please vote "No" so we can have better dialogue. This is far too important to Hawaii's future to decide in a week or so.

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Cc: ghthornock@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:09:07 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
George H. Thornock	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to this bill. I believe that marriage should be only between a man and a woman. Civil rights issues have already been addressed in the civil union bill.

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Cc: allendcastro@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:10:48 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Allen Castro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB1. I believe that all our citizens regardless of sexual orientation deserve marriage equality under ALL State and Federal laws. Allen Castro

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To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: silverhonu77@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:11:05 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Anjanette Naganuma	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am gainfully employed by State DOE. I am a college graduate; a mixed ethnicity female, married with one child, and heterosexual. I stand in support of the bill that "Recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex. Extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive." Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: mokihana1958@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:15:51 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
besilluan wa	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Holy Matrimony is a holy ordinance that includes only one man and one woman. Marriage equality may appear as politically correct, but it is morally wrong according to the holy bible. Let the People vote! What is the rush to pass this bill? Put it on the ballot and let the people vote!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: mokihana1958@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:15:51 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
besilluan wa	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Holy Matrimony is a holy ordinance that includes only one man and one woman. Marriage equality may appear as politically correct, but it is morally wrong according to the holy bible. Let the People vote! What is the rush to pass this bill? Put it on the ballot and let the people vote!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: hnljon@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:17:40 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jon Chilcote	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Gentlemen, I know that most of you have already made up your mind on how you will vote on bill 1 this session. I ask you to reconsider your vote, and vote for what you know deep in your heart is right. Marriage is to be between one man and one woman. Our country and our great state of Hawaii has been founded on Christian principles. The Christian definition of marriage has always been "One man and one woman for life". Please do not allow the sentiment of the minority to influence you to vote against what you know in your heart of hearts to be right. At the very least, allow the people of Hawaii to decide this issue. It is your responsibility as representitives of the people, to know what the majority of the people you represent desire. It has already been determined that the majority of Hawaii's residents do not favor same sex marriage. Please reconsider to do what is right, and defeat this bill.

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To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: artist@jeffmerrill.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:19:43 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jeff Merrill	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am strongly opposed to this Legislation because it violates my religious rights and undermines the foundation of families and society. Further it undermines the rights of children. Secondly, I am opposed to this legislation because it proposes to overturn the voice of the people regarding this issue as they spoke their voice to establish and define marriage as between one man and one woman. Please defer this legislation to see if the voice of the people has actually changed and not be changed by an activist governor and legislation. Let the people decide.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	mmmarumoto@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:20:29 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Mandy Marumoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose S.B. No. 1, known as the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Same-sex marriage should not be passed in a special session because: • A five day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time, and no amendments can be made to legislation. As a result, true democracy is made a mockery of. • A 'yes' vote during the special session is a 'no' vote to democracy because the voice of the people is NOT heard in a five day special session, especially if that voice is 'amend the bill.' • The so-called religious exemption language is rendered invalid because of the public accommodations carved out. • The people believed they voted on this issue in 1998 - if the polls show that Hawaii favors same-sex marriage, why not let the people vote? Legislators must respect fundamental democratic principles: • The people believed they addressed the issue in 1998, and should be the ones consulted again. • Marriage is NOT a civil right, and no court (including the Supreme Court) has ever said that it is. • A constitutional amendment would better address same-sex marriage and allow for ample public input. It is my belief that the governor's current bill will NOT protect church leaders' and individual rights. As a Christian I believe marriage is a holy covenant between a man and a woman before God. Like other Christians, my beliefs are centered on the Word of God. However, I also agree with Doug Mainwaring when he writes, “While religion and tradition have led many to their positions on same-sex marriage, it’s also possible to oppose same-sex marriage based on reason and experience.” In an article written in March 2013, he shares: “Our nation’s individual state legislatures and courts—including the Supreme Court— need to apply the brakes. Now. Same-sex marriage will not expand rights and freedoms in our nation. It will not redefine marriage. It will undefine it. This isn’t the first time our society has undefined marriage. No-fault divorce, instituted all across our country, sounded like a good idea at the time. Its unintended consequence was that it changed forever the definition of marriage from a permanent relationship between spouses to a temporary one. Sadly, children became collateral damage in the selfish pursuits of adults. Same-sex marriage will do the same, depriving children of their right to either a mom or a dad. This is not a small deal. Children are being reduced to chattel-like sources of fulfillment. On one side, their family tree consists not of ancestors, but of a small army of anonymous surrogates, donors, and attorneys who pinch-hit for the absent

gender in genderless marriages. Gays and lesbians demand that they have a “right” to have children to complete their sense of personal fulfillment, and in so doing, are trumping the right that children have to both a mother and a father—a right that same-sex marriage tramples over. Same-sex marriage will undefine marriage and unravel it, and in so doing, it will undefine children. It will ultimately lead to undefining humanity. This is neither “progressive” nor “conservative” legislation. It is “regressive” legislation.”

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: kaymie.arendale@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:24:15 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kaymie Arendale	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for allowing me to submit strong support on behalf of equal rights in Hawaii. This bill is not about religious beliefs or the sanctity of marriage, but rather is about equal rights for all people in the state of Hawaii.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: carol_hoomana@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:25:05 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Carol Hoomanawanui	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha Chairman Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor, I am opposed to SB 1 relating to same sex marriage. This bill will change centuries of tradition within a short period of time without allowing sufficient time for input from the people of Hawai'i. Please vote no on SB 1. Mahalo. Carol

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: jodiletra@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:39:54 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Joni Tanuvasa-Letisi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: My name is Joni Tanuvasa-Letisi and I oppose the same-sex marriage bill being proposed. I believe in equal rights for all, but not when measures to achieve it infringe on the rights of others. This bill is not only about affording everyone the right to join in matrimony, it is about the right for everyone to have religious freedom and the right to exercise their beliefs. In the bill's current wording, my church would be bound by law to marry individuals of the same sex upon request. We do not believe nor support this and should not be forced to do something that contradicts our beliefs. Must enabling some violate the sanctity of all others' beliefs? The answer is and should always be NO. Thank you for your time.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: bill@retiredinparadise.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:39:59 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
William Simonsma	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators, Please pass SB1. This is a clear civil rights and civil justice issue. The separation of State and Church must be upheld. All Americans must have equal protection of the laws. Mahalo, William Simonsma

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: koloheboy@live.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:43:31 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
John	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill will greatly affect my personal and religious beliefs. I feel that the decision should be made by the people, and not dictated by someone who does not share the same beliefs. This is a democracy not a dictatorship. This violates my constitutional rights.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: devenengli@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:53:46 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
deven english	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/13 Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage. I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process and does not give we, the people, sufficient input into the process. I am particularly concerned that the religious exemption clauses are so sparse. Priest, pastors and churches are exempted under only very limited circumstances. There is no exemption for religious organizations, charities or fraternal societies, nor are there any exemptions for individuals. I am concerned that my First Amendment rights be protected in the process. Finally, since we voted a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples, the only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide. Please do not circumvent the democratic process! Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill. I am a Christian man, and I must make a stand for my God and my family.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: nathaliastrickland@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:54:49 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Nathalia Strickland	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha Hawaii Senators and Representatives, I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am writing on behalf of my family to oppose Same Sex Marriage. We believe that this bill will affect many aspects of our lives, our religious lives especially. We understand that people should be equal, however this bill, instead of ensuring equality, will limit our religious freedom. Religious freedom is a First Amendment right. If this bill passes, it will affect directly all churches that refuse to support same sex-marriage on religious grounds and it will bring many lawsuits against good, upstanding organizations, individuals and businesses who believe that marriage should be between man & woman only. We hope this bill will be rewritten in order to protect religious rights as well as those of individuals who choose to lead their lives contrary to our beliefs. Thank you for your consideration. Concerned, Nathalia Strickland

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: allysen@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:57:01 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Allysen Manding	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: jaymerryweather@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:57:32 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
jay merryweather	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose this measure.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	Jjljlei@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:03:42 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Loida	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Loida Ramos 1121 Ala Napunani Street 201 Honolulu, HI 96818

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: jerandmona@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:03:44 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jerry Burrell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This special session is in direct opposition to the will of the people of the state of Hawaii. The people have spoken and in your arrogance your chose to ignore then at your own political demise. Second your starting a trend toward an extreme minority way of life that has no place in this on any other God centered Christian society which this is. Do not vote for this ramrod legislative action instead let the people who will be affected speak. Mahalo and God bless you and God bless America Jerry Burrell

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	tjcheung@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:05:52 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Teri Cheung	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a special session on any same-sex marriage issue. I am a mother of 2 children. I am a Chinese, also I am a Christian. I worried about how my kids will be in the future. There will be a difficult choice for them to see the world. They won't know how human been exactly comes from. They will be confuse to accept the Hunan beens. Also, sex disease will be around the state. The society will be mess up. Hawaii is paradise island, lots of Asian love to travel to this island. If the law passed, I am afraid the tourism might drop. Our economic is really depend on the tourism. Please take a serious consideration. Please let the people decide the marriage, let God in charge of this issue. Sincerely, Teri Cheung

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	lokelani86@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:19:36 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Mary	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I won't write a whole essay on why I support this measure as I am sure a lot are received. I only want to add to my voice to the others that are calling for equal marriage rights for all men and women in the state of Hawaii. This is an issue of civil rights and it is the role of the government to ensure that ALL people have equal rights and protection in the United States. As a place known for its great Aloha, Hawaii needs to extend these rights to all people.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: konacondo328@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:50:38 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Barbara Goles	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Marriage is between 1 man and 1 woman. This is God's creation and procreation is only possible with opposite sex marriages. Do not dilute this precious relationship for the interests of the minority and the VERY FEW...God cannot be mocked without consequences. Beware!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: gomama808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:52:03 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Carolyn Golojuch	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need SB1 on Marriage for All in Hawaii because we need State and Federal benefits and privileges. Thank you very much!! Gwen Abella PFLAG-Oahu Member PO Box 37658 Honolulu, HI 96837

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From: jkn
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Please do not allow same sex marriage in Hawaii
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:47:25 PM

Hello,
I am a mother of 5 children all grown up in Hawaii. This same sex marriage issue is my biggest concern for the future of all our future generations. I hope you realize the extent of the consequences of allowing same sex marriages. The right I concern is not right for everyone to get marry but the right to protect the sacred idea of marriage.The people of Hawaii already voted to ban the same sex marriages in the past. The same sex marriage ban should not be amended by just passing a bill by law makers. Once the law to allow the same sex marriage exists, many things will be changed and fundamental views of our lives will be effected. For example, in Canada, the 3rd graders are taught about the same sex marriages in the class rooms. The high school students are mandated to listen to gay activists promoting same sex relationships in the assembly. I personally very concerned about the adaptions by the same sex couples as well. It is not fare for a child to raised in the environment that he/she does not have any choice, he or she will never have an opportunity to feel the love from a mother and a father. That will have a lasting affect of the child to live in this world. The US as a nation should think of the consequence of our action at large now and future. The issue is not the equality of people as many of you proclaim, the issue is that we have the right and responsibility to perverse the traditional marriages for our future generations. As you are well aware marriages between one man and one woman are the fundamental principle that humankind are designed for.
Please respect what the people in Hawaii want. Please do not get influenced by the mega ad/campaign of all the G&L associations mostly organized out side of this state, advocating as the right of equality,

Keiko Nakama

From: Jerald Ulmer Jr
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:32:33 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jerald Ulmer Jr
924-A Emmeluth Lane
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: David Taylor
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Re: same sex marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:26:04 PM

On Oct 26, 2013, at 5:17 PM, David Taylor wrote:

> Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey
>
> Here are some points to consider when defending marriage:
> _ In states across the country, citizens have repeatedly voted in favor of one-man, one- woman in marriage. In fact to date, each time the question has gone to the ballot box, voters have affirmed this long standing definition of marriage (the voters of Hawaii have voted NO, why do Government Representatives not honor the results?)
>
> _Numerous studies show that children do best when raised by their own married mother and father.They are less likely to engage in violence,do drugs,be idle by dropping out of school and not working.(not good tax payers)
>
> - The most important vote you and other Representatives of the state of Hawaii have is allowing the citizens the freedom to vote on issue that impact our inalienable rights to life liberty,free speech,freedom of religion,and to vote.
>
> Thank You for allowing for the marketplace of ideas.

From: John Condrey
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:22:08 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

John Condrey
99-1440 Aiea Hts Dr #42
#41
aiea, HI 96701

From: Samuel Grunblatt
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:19:59 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Samuel Grunblatt
Kahaloa Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Ryan Mae Sweeney
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Submitting Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:17:10 PM

Aloha,

I am writing you to express my views and opinion on passing the bill to legalize same sex marriage in Hawaii. As a progressive young woman who has many friends who are gay, and a concerned mother who grew up here it is NOT my heart to see us make same sex marriage legal. And I believe it is also NOT the heart of this community.

It is not about equal rights...let the rights of our brothers and sisters who choose this lifestyle have equal rights. It is about the sanctity of marriage and the undeniable rights to religious beliefs that this country was founded upon. Marriage is a religious act and not a social right. To treat it any differently would blur the lines so irreparably as to indelibly change the fabric of our society. Legalizing same sex marriage refuses the people their right to their religious beliefs by rewriting the very definition of marriage and influencing society and the next generation.

I'm perplexed by the way the true definition of marriage continues to be diluted and dismissed. To me it is akin to a person who is an atheist demanding the right to go into a catholic church and be baptized---if that is not your belief, why would you want to be part of and define your very person with such a ceremony? Marriage is no different.

Please, I implore you to treat this matter with the deepest consideration and care. Thank you for your public service.

Ryan

--
Ryan Mae Sweeney
Ph: (808) 393-7740

From: Jacqui Marlin
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:17:10 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Additionally, voting on a bill in accordance with some religious basis is against the first amendment and is also not even a religion followed by all of the people of this state! I would hope our legislators will exercise some common sense and vote for love over false belief.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jacqui Marlin
16-1113 Moho Rd.
Kurtistown, HI 96760

From: Heather Mills
To: _JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly@capitol.hawaii.gov
Cc: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: S.B. 1 Written Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:07:14 PM

Heather Mills
1638D Oo Lane
Honolulu, HI 96817

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony.

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, based on the fundamental principle that marriage is an institution created by and solemnized by God; and as such, should be based upon the standards that He has established. Namely, marriage is reserved for one man and one woman and is to be observed with complete fidelity. Stating otherwise is offensive to God and to those of us that choose to follow Him.

I oppose S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 because it seeks to change a law which is based upon God's law for the creation and nurture of families. I strongly believe that families, consisting of a righteous and wedded father and mother, who love and respect their children as they raise them, are the foundation of our society and the strongest hope for a secure future.

As elected officials of our society, it rests upon you to protect the vital institution of traditional marriage between one man and one woman and in so doing, protect the core family values upon which our country was founded and preserved, and which will help to preserve it in the future. Additionally, as elected officials of our society, the responsibility rests upon you to protect the rights of those who believe in marriage between one man and one woman.

As such, I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. However, if you choose to vote "Yes" or "With Reservations" it is imperative you first protect the rights of those who do not believe in same-gender marriage adjusting the proposed legislation as follows:

-protect the religious freedom of individuals who work in either the private or public sector from violating

any of their religious principles by being allowed to decline providing services to a same-gender marriage solemnization, celebration and/or any associated service rendered

-strengthen exemptions for religious clergy, institutions and any facility associated with a religious organization from solemnizing and/or hosting/housing same-gender marriage ceremonies

-create exemptions for religious clergy, institutions and any facility associated with a religious organization from making any religious facility owned or leased by the religious organization available for any same-gender marriage ceremonies or associated celebrations.

It is imperative you remember the rights of those who are morally opposed to same-gender marriages. Their religious beliefs and freedoms must be protected.

Again, I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Heather Mills
Hawaii Voter

From: Bobbie Ward
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:06:39 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bobbie Ward
po box 330637
Kahului, HI 96733

From: Bobbie Ward
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:06:37 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Bobbie Ward
po box 330637
Kahului, HI 96733

From:	Mary James
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	SB1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:05:32 PM

Chair Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee,

Please pass legislation to give same-sex couples the same rights and benefits enjoyed today by opposite sex couples in marriage.

It is important to do it during this special session both to:

- Give same-sex couples gain full recognition and marriage benefits before year's end; and
- Prevent this issue from taking valuable time from the 2014 legislative session.

There are many other issues to work on during the regular session, so completing this discussion before session begins would benefit all of the other issues and their stakeholders, issues such as the budget, schools, consumer protection, the environment and so many others.

Thanks for hearing this bill and hopefully getting it through the process, making it law.

Mary James
felinitous@yahoo.com

From: Robert Rameyer
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:05:04 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

It seems like a simple request to be treated equally and with respect. Hawaii is one step away from granting equal rights to loving gay and lesbian couples. Civil unions were a good start, but once DOMA Section 3 was ruled unconstitutional - gay and lesbian couples here and across the country were left without the rights and protections afforded by the federal government.

It is time to make things right. I've been with my partner for about as long as this fight for marriage equality has lasted - about 20 years. I think we've waited long enough for rights that most straight couples take for granted.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for me, my partner and all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robert Rameyer
3006 Pualei Cir #209
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Juan
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:40:12 PM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I'm writing to you in opposition to a special legislation on SB1. There is not enough time for the democratic process to occur in properly hearing the people out on such a controversial issue as same sex marriage. I'm urging you to move this bill to regular session in the new year for appropriate deliberation to happen as we, the people, are given the time to testify for/against this bill.

The people we put into office represent the people that sent them there, that's the democratic process. It is not a popularity vote and whomever gets voted in chooses what he/she wants- no. Our Representatives represent the people. All I'm ask as a loving husband and father, is for this committee to take the time to appropriately discuss this bill in the regular session.

Much Mahalo for hearing the people out on this issue,

Juan Balila Jr.
623 N. Kuakini St. #203
Honolulu, HI 96817

Sent from my iPad

From: Jean Trapido-Rosenthal
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:37:25 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jean Trapido-Rosenthal
3615 Alani Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Judy Taggerty
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Same Sex Marriage, Let the People Decide Please: Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:30:55 PM

Same Sex Marriage is such an important issue it should not be done in Hast. This is something that will have a lasting impact on Hawai'i Nei, our Ohana and Keiki. Same Sex Marriage can not be taken lightly, as this is changing something that has been tradition for thousands of years, one man and one women. Kind of pulling the rug out from underneath us.

The Bill for an Act Revised 09/09/13 connected to SB1 only benefits Same sex couples, NO ONE ELSE. Everyone one in the state will be walking on egg shells so no one upsets the gay community or possible law suites which this Bill will give them legal rights to take action against anyone they are not happy with.

A few months ago we had another huge AIDS outbreak in Kona within the Homosexual community, this is a serious Health Concern.

The gay movement has been trying to get the Dept of Health to accept a gay persons blood, as they have not up til now. If the DOH accepts their blood then the gays will be deemed normal and acceptable, the same label they want for Same Sex Marriage, when it clearly is not the same.

Civil Unions give benefits. If a gay couple really wants to wed then they can go to a state that does Same Sex Marriages, and come back with the total package.

There was a gay pride parade in Kailua-Kona a few years ago where the gay participants gave condoms to little children whose parents were OUTRAGED. I don't think the gay parade will be coming back to Kona unless Same Sex Marriage is passed.

These are a few concerns, the main concern is to PROTECT OUR CHILDREN. Adults have choices, they can chose the life they want to live, our children should be PROTECTED, allow them to be innocent children.

Mahalo for your time. I believe you will do what is best for Hawai'i and it's people.

I'm a Registered voter and legal resident of the Big Island of Hawai'i.

Judy Taggerty
73-1065 Loloa Drive
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
(808) 325-6551

From: John Fargason
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:25:39 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

John Fargason
415 Dairy rd.Ste E #225
Kahului, HI 96732

From: David Abraham
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:22:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Abraham
480 Kenolio Rd #23-103
Kihei, HI 96753

From:	Van Law
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Cc:	All Senators
Subject:	Testimony in Strong Support of SB 1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:20:34 PM

Aloha Chair Hee and Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee,

I am writing you to express my strong support for SB 1. I feel that you should pass marriage equality because Hawaii is ready, now is the right time, and it honors the traditions of marriage.

Hawaii has never been more ready to embrace same-gender marriages – all recent polls show a shift towards acceptance both locally and nationally. This trend should continue until those who hold on to old values and old ideals of treating their neighbors unfairly become a very infinitesimal minority.

Now is the right time to extend Federal benefits to same-gender couples – the United States Supreme Court's ruling that the Defense of Marriage Act was unconstitutional only affect married couples. Unless we recognize same-gender marriages in Hawaii, we will continue to have a two tier system. Extending Federal benefits to Hawaii same-gender couples will cost the State nothing.

Love and Commitment are the true traditions of marriage – if two people want to share their lives together, and they love one another and are committed to one another, why should anyone try to stop them?

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 1 immediately.

Mahalo,

Van Law

3274 Loke Pl

Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Kara K.
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Written testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:17:30 PM

To the Committee on Judiciary and Labor regarding SB1 and the hearing to be held on Monday October 28, 2013 at 1030am. I will not be able to testify in person.

My name is Kara Kuba and I grew up and have lived in Hawaii for most of my life. I am emailing you to ask that you vote No in regard to SB1. I really believe that this subject deserves more time and also community involvement/education, before being voted on. What's the rush? Please, I ask you, please, let the voters, the ohana, the kama'aina, the people of Hawaii have a louder voice in this matter. It is too important and influential to push through so quickly.

Thank you very much and best regards,

Kara Kuba

From: Ailina Alfonsi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:18:32 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ailina Alfonsi
124 Miner Place
Makawao, HI 96768

From: Lisa Alano
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:16:36 PM

Lisa W. Alano
Honolulu, HI 96822

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony.

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because of the following reasons:

1. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
2. It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
3. It re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage.
4. It fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits.
5. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits.
6. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members from lawsuits.
7. It extends parentage rights that would transfer Native Hawaiian ethnicity to non-Native Hawaiian individuals.
8. It provides that same-sex couples married in the State, but who do not live in Hawaii, the right to return to Hawaii courts for divorce, annulment and separation proceedings. Hawaii taxpayers will be paying for these costs.
9. It will introduce new educational curriculum for K-12 grades that will present same-sex marriages and relationships to school children and youth.
10. It is in blatant opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language “reserve marriage” indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and

one woman exclusively.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Lisa W. Alano
Hawaii Voter

From: Han Nguyen
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:02:35 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Han Nguyen
430 Lewers Street
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Ka`anohiokala Pe`a
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Legislature Bill
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:01:04 PM

Aloha mai kakou,

First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to all of your efforts in performing righteous endeavors to our family and community. All of you are granted by the people's votes to perform your office duties. And I feel that my vote made an impact to you! I also know that this letter will make a statement to declare the righteous endeavors in our community and state.

There is a higher law that exist and it's been clear to us that marriage is between a man and a woman. So, therefore, I support traditional marriage!

Why are we not following this law? It is not man's law; it's God's law. Whether you understand it or not, I know why, Lucifer is deceiving man's mind and heart.

Every oath that we make as citizens of this great nation, we solemnly accept God in our decisions. In the office positions, court house, creating laws of the land, we place an oath on the Bible. Therefore, we recognize the existence of God. The money we use states. "In God We Trust."

All I ask is that you make a righteous decision! Because YOU WILL BE ACCOUNTABLE!!!

Aloha nui,

Na Ka`anohiokala Pe`a

LMT: MAT-9551
AMTA member
1-808-333-7890
okalapea@yahoo.com

From: Julie Ireland
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: FW: Same Sex Marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 5:20:28 PM

Julie Ireland
1011-B Maunawili Road
808-388-0074
wonireland@hotmail.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear JDL committee,

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of our District. I truly appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote “no” to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public,

just as
others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as
was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment.
I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be
given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take
the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to
express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,
Julie Ireland

From: John Roco
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Written testimony on Gay marriage bill
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:31:14 AM

John P. Roco, M.A., M.A., Counselor

National Provider Identifier: 1831340223

Post Office Box 11272

Honolulu, Hi 96828

Be Cool Now TM Class

Waikiki Landmark Building

1888 Kalakaua Ave, Suite C312 **:**

at Intersection of Ala Wai & Kalakaua Ave.

Johnny Rock Piano: "I Expect being Sued Twice if Gay Marriage is law."

Saturday, October 26, 2013

I am a pianist on Oahu, Hawaii who has a passion for music. There was a time, after a car accident years ago, that piano & music was all I could do; it became my therapy and became life-giving not just for me, but for all who listened. Even my supervisor, after listening while eating lunch at the cafeteria, later encouraged students to go, listen & relax- to relieve stress. There was much stress as they were interns in Loma Linda University's Ph.D. clinical psychology program, many seeing clients for the first time.

I never finished the Ph.D. due to his disabling TBI (traumatic brain injury), instead obtaining a 2nd psychology masters degree, and eventually opening private practice in Honolulu. My clients are usually individuals in relationships and with families; after individual therapy, we may at times convert to marital therapy. My concern stems from the record of lawsuits in other states where business owners with religious convictions, have been sued for not recognizing a same-sex couple as being 'married' (click links of a Washington state florist's experiences of being sued by the attorney general and countersuing: a) http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2020743969_floristlawsuitxml.html b) http://blog.seattlepi.com/seattlepolitics/2013/04/09/ag-sues-florist-who-refused-flowers-to-gay-wedding/ c) http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2021001123_apwagayweddinglawsuit2ndldwritethru.html d) http://www.king5.com/news/local/Richland-florist-sues-state-207743671.html).

Last year, an individual called me, asking if I could see her for gender conversion therapy. Since I know no referrals for such therapy, I referred her to call the administrators of counseling

associations. But if someone called me asking for marital therapy, and I refuse to see a same-sex 'married' couple, then the same as what happened to the Florist, will happen to me. They are imposing a 'world view' and that is what it is all about, conform or be sued- Governor Abercrombie's bill is intended to withstand a supreme court challenge. I am a counselor, and what this amounts to is 'bullying' into submission. However, I, as a business owner, am in double jeopardy because I play piano for events, and if someone asked me to play for their wedding reception, for a same-sex couple, and I refuse, I will twice be sued, just as the wedding florist. This is 'bullying.' And I will be doubly sued, because of this imposition of a 'new world' view on all of us.

Sincerely,

"Johnny Rock Piano" John Roco

phone: 808.721.9845 | johnroco.weebly.com

From: Chad Udani
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SSM Special Session
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:32:21 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a registered voter from the Ewa District, I hear by submit a written testimony in opposition to the special session regarding and the passing of the proposed Same-Sex Marriage Bill. This bill should not be passed for many reasons. First off, it is non-democratic. The voice of the people, who had previously voted against same-sex marriage, would be silenced. A 'yes' vote during the special session is a 'no' vote to democracy because the voice of the people would not be heard. Furthermore, Hawaii is the only state rushing into a special session. If the need was truly dire, why haven't the other 34 states that do not permit same-sex marriages done so?

Sincerely,
Chad Udani

From: Darroll Kahuena
To: JDLTestimony
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:33:10 AM

Dear Sirs/Madam,

Why is this Bill being RUSHED through with a Special Session? What happen to the Regular Session?. When & Where are the Public Hearings. Will folks throughout the State have a say in this due-process and vent our concerns (will aunty & uncle out in the boonies on the outer islands get a chance)? Let's be fair to all in this process.

Have you spoken with religious leaders from each sects? Catholics, Baptist, Buddhist, Episcopalian, Pentecostal, Lutheran, Methodist, LDS, Presbyterian, Jewish and Islam about the effects of this Bill. This is who you will be affecting with your vote. The exemptions and everything about this bill can and will open up law-suits and then what? It goes to the courts?

If the state wants to allow a particular issue, like same sex marriage to be performed by state workers, then that is between the state and the people. But crossing over into the religious sector, and even the private business sector, will have a lot of issues. Don't force it down on each of the above and each of us. Let the people vote their conscience.

In 1974, my single-mom said, "Eh, take off my slippa's, don't be a mahu!! dats for girls" My mom was teaching me 'gender'. The word 'Mahu', like the word 'Housewife' may derogatory. But my mom taught me that way and I'll be honest I've said the same things to my son, "Don't be a mahu". I didn't say, "Don't be a Homosexual". I used a traditional way of teach my son and children learned from my mom, who learned it from her parents and so on. I was born in 1966, Hawaii was a State, my mom was born in 1934, Hawaii was a Territory, My grand-parents was born when this was the Kingdom Of Hawaii.

The polls say things, but it really doesn't matter; because it comes down to the actual vote. Your vote as our senator counts. We the people, should have the same opportunity to vote, let's really see where the majority is? It happened in 1998. Let put it to vote again, so folks can stop the effort of taking away our religious liberties. PLEASE VOTE IN OPPOSITION OF THIS BILL.

Mahalo,

Darroll & Christine Kahuena
55-606 Iosepa St.
Laie, Hawaii 96762

808-216-2715

From: Lucy and Steve
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:11:34 AM

Stephen R. Meek
PO Box 982
Pepeekeo, Hawaii 96783

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am personally opposed to the bill for same sex marriage. However, I am even more opposed to the way this major issue is being addressed. A special session greatly limits the voice of the Hawaii people. In a special session the legislative process will be crammed into a few short days with the voice of the people having little if any impact. If we delay this important issue just a couple of months the people will have many more chances to voice their opinions during the many weeks of the upcoming normal session of the legislators. Why the rush!

At this time .2% of Hawaii residents (that's 2 of every 1000) are engaged in civil unions. Most if not all the people wanting same sex marriage are those now in civil unions. Is delaying the 2 out of 1000 people for a couple of months worth greatly limiting the voice of most of the other 998 of 1000 people? In a regular session some of the major issues that could be more fully examined include- are there any other ways to give the certain privileges being sought to the 2 out of 1000 people. Are some of the rights of the 998 out of 1000 people going to be denied due to this new law? At this time the language of the new law will infringe on many of the rights of the 998. In other states where same sex marriage has been passed the rights of businesses, churches, and parents have already been smashed. (For evidences see: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZX55HUPFSU&feature=share)

We should either put this important issue to the vote of the people or put it through the normal legislative process where the people will be able to give a full voice to the issue. On issues of this magnitude the voice of the people should not be diminished. If the rights of many the 998 out of 1000 are being diminished and they can at least have a full voice before those rights are being diminished is one thing. But if you are diminishing those rights while at the same time greatly limiting the voice of these 998 to speak about it is another thing. Either put this most important issue to a vote of the people or stop the special session and let the people give full voice to their concerns in the regular legislative session which will take place in a couple of short months.

Stephen R. Meek

From:	Eileen M. Tweedy
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Marriage Equality
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:03:41 AM

I would like to urge members of the Hawaii State legislature to support marriage equality.

More and more, as I listen to stories of same sex couples, those who have been together for 25-33-40+ years, I know in my heart that the only thing that stands between their rights and those of the general population, is their legal right to be married. No harm would come to the general "Marriage between a Man and a Woman" population should same-sex couples be given this right. Religious views should not stand in the way.

Thank you for hearing my views.

Eileen M. Tweedy
Koloa, HI 96756

From: Lynn Sawyer
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Hearing, 10/31
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:54:31 AM

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees:

I am writing to protest the Special Session on same-sex marriage. I think that this issue needs to be dealt with in a regular session and include the vote of the people. We believe that the people voted on this issue in 1998. If the polls show that Hawaii favors this law, then why not let the people vote? We are the only state rushing into this, and a 5-day session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time.

It is our Legislators responsibility to respect and insure fundamental democratic principles. Since the people addressed this issue in 1998, we should be the ones consulted again. **Marriage is NOT a civil right, and no court (including the Supreme Court) has ever said that it is.** A **constitutional amendment** would better address same-sex marriage AND allow for ample public input. *Please do not make a mockery of our democratic rights and procedures!*

In addition, the governor's current bill will NOT protect church facilities (contrary to what he wants you to believe). If your church offers a public service (i.e. preschool, community group meetings), by definition, your church is a *public accommodation* and would be legally obligated to sanction a same-sex marriage if requested. ***This is in direct violation of First Amendment rights!***

PLEASE ALLOW OUR VOICE TO BE HEARD!

Loretta L. Sawyer
2629 Kinoole Street
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Lynn Sawyer
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Hearing, October 31
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:52:46 AM

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees:

I am writing to protest the Special Session on same-sex marriage. I think that this issue needs to be dealt with in a regular session and include the vote of the people. We believe that the people voted on this issue in 1998. If the polls show that Hawaii favors this law, then why not let the people vote? We are the only state rushing into this, and a 5-day session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time.

It is our Legislators responsibility to respect and insure fundamental democratic principles. Since the people addressed this issue in 1998, we should be the ones consulted again. **Marriage is NOT a civil right, and no court (including the Supreme Court) has ever said that it is.** A **constitutional amendment** would better address same-sex marriage AND allow for ample public input. *Please do not make a mockery of our democratic rights and procedures!*

In addition, the governor's current bill will NOT protect church facilities (contrary to what he wants you to believe). If your church offers a public service (i.e. preschool, community group meetings), by definition, your church is a *public accommodation* and would be legally obligated to sanction a same-sex marriage if requested. ***This is in direct violation of First Amendment rights!***

PLEASE ALLOW OUR VOICE TO BE HEARD!

Loretta L. Sawyer
2629 Kinoole Street
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Aunty Lucy
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:46:27 AM

Lucille J Meek
PO Box 982
Pepeekeo, HI 96783

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am personally opposed to the bill for same sex marriage. However, I am even more opposed to the way this major issue is being addressed. A special session greatly limits the voice of the Hawaii people. In a special session the legislative process will be crammed into a few short days with the voice of the people having little if any impact. If we delay this important issue just a couple of months the people will have many more chances to voice their opinions during the many weeks of the upcoming normal session of the legislators. Why the rush!

At this time .2% of Hawaii residents (that's 2 of every 1000) are engaged in civil unions. Most if not all the people wanting same sex marriage are those now in civil unions. Is delaying the 2 out of 1000 people for a couple of months worth greatly limiting the voice of most of the other 998 of 1000 people? In a regular session some of the major issues that could be more fully examined include- are there any other ways to give the certain privileges being sought to the 2 out of 1000 people. Are some of the rights of the 998 out of 1000 people going to be denied due to this new law? At this time the language of the new law will infringe on many of the rights of the 998. In other states where same sex marriage has been passed the rights of businesses, churches, and parents have already been smashed. (For evidences see: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZX55HUPFSU&feature=share)

We should either put this important issue to the vote of the people or put it through the normal legislative process where the people will be able to give a full voice to the issue. On issues of this magnitude the voice of the people should not be diminished. If the rights of many the 998 out of 1000 are being diminished and they can at least have a full voice before those rights are being diminished is one thing. But if you are diminishing those rights while at the same time greatly limiting the voice of these 998 to speak about it is another thing. Either put this most important issue to a vote of the people or stop the special session and let the people give full voice to their concerns in the regular legislative session which will take place in a couple of short months.

Lucille J. Meek

From: Aunty Lucy
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:46:03 AM

Stephen R. Meek
PO Box 982
Peppekeo, HI 96783

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am personally opposed to the bill for same sex marriage. However, I am even more opposed to the way this major issue is being addressed. A special session greatly limits the voice of the Hawaii people. In a special session the legislative process will be crammed into a few short days with the voice of the people having little if any impact. If we delay this important issue just a couple of months the people will have many more chances to voice their opinions during the many weeks of the upcoming normal session of the legislators. Why the rush!

At this time .2% of Hawaii residents (that's 2 of every 1000) are engaged in civil unions. Most if not all the people wanting same sex marriage are those now in civil unions. Is delaying the 2 out of 1000 people for a couple of months worth greatly limiting the voice of most of the other 998 of 1000 people? In a regular session some of the major issues that could be more fully examined include- are there any other ways to give the certain privileges being sought to the 2 out of 1000 people. Are some of the rights of the 998 out of 1000 people going to be denied due to this new law? At this time the language of the new law will infringe on many of the rights of the 998. In other states where same sex marriage has been passed the rights of businesses, churches, and parents have already been smashed. (For evidences see: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZX55HUPFSU&feature=share)

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Stephen R. Meek

From: Robin McCulloch
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony Opposing Senate Bill 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:33:33 AM

TESTIMONY

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
CVOMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

SUBJECT: **Testimony Opposing Senate Bill 1**

Senator Hee and Senators and Representatives of the State of Hawaii,

My name is Robin McCulloch. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to you and your colleagues. The preamble to the 2011 bill that enabled civil unions stated: "The Legislature finds that the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage as a unique social institution based upon the committed union of one man and one woman." If the people chose to do that in 2011, the Legislature has to ask us if we've changed our minds. This important subject deserves to be submitted to a public referendum for action. I therefore respectfully oppose Bill 1, and testify in opposition to its passage.

These are matters of great concern to the religious community and your constituents.

Thank you for your consideration of these serious issues, and thank you for your service to our State as Senators and Representatives.

Gratefully,

Robin McCulloch

P.O. Box 202

Laie, Hawaii 96762

From: Sheldon Lacsina
To: JUDSStestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov; JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly; JDLTestimony
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:22:28 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I oppose this bill due to the lack of the democratic process. The majority of Hawaii DOES NOT WANT SAME SEX MARRIAGE as a law. The ramifications of this law has not been well thought through, religions are not protected fairly, businesses are not protected fairly, and rushing this bill through will have negative consequences for sure...just do the research with the states that have passed this law.

Yes, in 1998, we voted to "grant the Hawaii State Legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples," only because that's what was worded. It should've said, "Marriage in the state of Hawaii is reserved between one man and one woman." But it was worded that way so that you could do what you're doing today, which is not how our constitution works.

This is not the best way to go about the most critical issue facing our time. You know as well as I do, the way it's being done and the way the bill is worded, VIOLATES THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sheldon Lacsina
Kea'au, Hawaii 96749
DISTRICT 4

From: James Long
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:10:49 AM

Email submission of written testimony
Re: SB 1
Monday October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
I will not be testifying in person.

Senators,

I believe it is the right thing to do, to pass SB1 and allow our same-sex, married island brothers and sisters federal recognition and be treated equally under federal law. It is not only the right thing to do, it is the right time to do it.

Thank you,

James Long
PO Box 521
Naalehu, HI
96722

From: judyarthuronmaui@aol.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB NO 1 AND SAME SEX MARRIAGE
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:50:44 AM

I AM AGAINST THIS BILL AND SAME SEX MARRIAGE! JUDY ARTHUR

From: GEOFFREY M FELLS
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Marriage equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:46:22 AM

I support marriage equality
Geoffrey Fells

Sent from my iPhone

From:	tkeliikoa
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	No to same sex marriage
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:31:45 AM

To Senate/Representatives/Governor,
Please No to same sex marriage, no to special session and allow feeedom of religion!

Respectfully Yours,
Marites Keliikoa

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE DeviceGg

From: Shayna Kaneko
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:04:55 AM

Aloha!

As a resident of Hawaii, I would like to take this time to ask you to stop the Special Session on Marriage Equality and let the people vote on marriage. We are only 2 months away from a Regular Session, so what's the rush with this Special Session? Also, marriage is not equality and it does not need to be redefined! When they changed the law about race, they didn't change the definition of race, When they made a law that women were allowed to vote, they didn't change the definition of women or voting. So why change the definition of marriage? I heard polls shows that majority of Hawaii wants same-gender marriage, but I was never asked about that! So if that's what they say, why not let the people vote? Do you know what will happen if this bill passes? If you don't, read about what happened to Massachusetts and how their state is falling apart. It will also happen to us, if we don't do anything about it. Our children will be learning from kindergarden how to have gay sex. I'm not a parent yet, but I do want kids, and I would not want my children to learn about sex at such a young age. Please consider to kill this bill or let the people of Hawaii vote on marriage!

Thank you for your time!

Mahalo,

Shayna Kaneko

From: Joyce Lyon
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Same Sex Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:00:19 AM

I very much appreciate those of you who have chosen to give your time to serve our Island in your position of responsibility. The rest of us need you to represent us, and I'm sure you feel the pain and strain and the impossibility of pleasing all the people all the time.

Therefore, I would like to suggest to you a way you can know fulfillment and even experience joy. That would be to follow the One Who created our universe and each one of us here today. What is written in the Bible holds true. One man and one woman constitutes a marriage. And simply, anything other than that will create havoc. We can trust this most reliable source and in doing so preserve our Island motto. The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.

Thank you. Joyce Lyon 614 Kaimalino St., Kailua, HI 254-3883

From: Leonard Mukai
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Senate Bill 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:49:49 AM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am against legalizing same sex marriage in Hawaii and encourage you to allow the people of Hawaii to decide this important issue. As a father, grandfather, and parent educator, I understand the importance of a father and mother to a child.

Aloha, Dr. Leonard Mukai 27 Hualilili St Hilo, HI 96720

From: Peter Lau
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 relating to Equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:04:33 AM

Dear Honorable Legistlators:

From: Mamasonruhland
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Special Session on Same Sex Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:59:59 AM

Please cancel this session and Vote NO and let the people decide on marriage. Less than 1% of Hawaii residents support gay marriage. Please listen to your constituents. Let the people decide on marriage.
Aloha
Marie Ruhland
28 Makakai Place
Hilo
HD 1

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Patricia Kawachi
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Special Session / Same Sex Marriage
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:54:09 AM

Aloha,

As a Registered Voter in the State of Hawaii I ask that the Proclamation for the Special Session be rescinded because this is not following the Democracy process.

The Bill for Same Sex Marriage should be killed and never brought up again.

I have grandchildren and family members including myself want to live a wholesome life and in the best environment everyday. Also, let the Voices of the People be heard as we all Stand for what is RIGHT for now and in the future.

Mahalo,

Patricia
Big Island Resident
& Registered Voter

From: Michael Wilson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Gay Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:08:38 AM

Hi All,

I believe that gay marriage is missing the point about what marriage is about. Marriage is to protect families. Same sex couples cannot create children. You cannot pass a law that will make this possible.

The legislature is supposed to represent all the people. It is not supposed to make laws against the will of the majority of the people. Put it on the ballot again if you need to go forward. Do not strong arm the bill thru.

Also the bill as written is contrary to freedom of religion. If the church allows a marriage between a non member and a member, it must allow marriage between gays at their church. This despite the fact that the church members do not believe in gay marriage. It also forces individuals to perform services at gay marriages despite their beliefs.

I believe this is an abuse of power by the governor to even call this special session.

Regards,
Mike Wilson
82-6275 Puuhonua Rd
Captain Cook, Hi 96704

From: LAURA TORRES
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: FW: Special Sessions
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:07:32 AM

From: lwtorres@msn.com
To: senruderman@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: FW: Special Sessions
Date: Thu, 24 Oct 2013 09:06:02 +0000

From: lwtorres@msn.com
To: repnakashima@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: Special Sessions
Date: Wed, 23 Oct 2013 19:06:00 +0000

Dear Sir;
It is with great concern that I write to you regarding the passage of Same Sex Marriage.

I want to know why you would consider destroying the foundations of our church and culture by impelmenting the accomodations bill in which we do allow families with little or no income to have funeral services, feeding of the homeles, hoopono sessions to help our communities that would otherwise be a burden to the state.

If the accomodations are allowed we will now have to allow same sex marriages into our churches
without prejudice which would be against our conscious or we would be sued. I don't understand.

Also, with the high statistics in Massachusettes in regards to HIV among young men of ages 13 to 28, Why are you supporting the early death of my grandchildren. I don't understand.

I thought you represented the people of almost 2 million, not just a handful 1/5 of 1 percent. Please give me something to take back to our congregation of approximately 200, because we all want to know.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Laura Torres.

From: ClifChoy@aol.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Marriage Equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:47:43 AM

Dear Legislators,

I am a retired gay man, 64 years old, born and raised in Hawaii. I am also a father, grandfather, brother, cousin, friend, neighbor, and before retirement someone who worked for city in the field of social work for over 30 years. One of my greatest joys in life is being a grandfather!

I value my family, friends, and the people I come into contact with daily. I have always been proud to live in the State of Hawaii, where there is Aloha, Ohana and a true spirit of sharing and caring.

It is time that Hawaii accepts equality for all and tolerance and acceptance of everyone.

Please make the right decision and support Marriage Equality. A decision should not be based on sexual preference. Love is not judgmental and is about acceptance and respect for everyone. Those are values I want my grandson to grow up with and to see exemplified by others.

Thank You!

Sincerely,

Clifton Choy

From: Mamasonruhland
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Same Sex Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:45:28 AM

My name is Marie Ruhland. My address is 28 Makakai Place Hilo. I vote and I live in District 1. I am against Same Sex Marriage. It is not about equality. SSM is not a civil right. There is no court in America that has ever declared marriage to be a civil right. It is an institution that has been the cornerstone of our very culture. It is not the right of 76 legislators to change marriage. This special session is a travesty and a mockery of the rights of the people. This special session is about forcing the will of the government on the people and we will fight this battle until the bill is dead.

Please vote NO and dismiss this special session and Let The People Decide on Marriage. We promise that we will work hard to replace every legislator who forces SSM upon the people of Hawaii. This is a disgrace and a shameful example of the tyranny taking place in America today.....goverment out of control and legislators who are not listening to their constituents. Thank you for hearing our voices and doing the "right thing at the right time."

Sent from my iPhone

From: Thomas Hema
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: *****SPAM***** Opposition to the Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 (Bill #SB1)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:04:50 PM

October 25, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to the Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am strongly opposed to the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 (Bill #SB1) that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

Why should a few elected officials be the determiner of whether or not the Act passes? The majority of Hawaii residents (9 out of 10) are heterosexual. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of voters feel that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But put it to the vote of the people. **I want to exercise my right to vote on this important legislation!**

After the vote of the people, if the majority feels that same-sex marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then it would be important that safeguards be put in place to protect the religious rights of people. Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. The bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It's a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It's a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Even though society is changing, the teachings in the bible have not, and many people still adhere to its principles. It is their religious right to do so. It is my religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs, would be infringing on their religious rights.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 (Bill #SB1).

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas D. Hema
13-3489 Oneloa Street

Pahoa, Hawaii 96778

/tdh

From: Jane Pascual
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Written Testimony for SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:03:46 PM

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair; Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Senator Mike Gabbard; Senator Brickwood Galuteria; Senator Les Ihara, Jr.; Senator Sam Slom; Senator Malama Solomon

HEARING DATE & TIME: Monday, October 28, 2013-10:30a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1 – EQUAL RIGHTS

I will not testify in person.

Written Testimony for SB1-Equal Rights (Marriage Equality)
From: Jane Pascual-Voter in Senate District 13 (Chinatown); House District 29
For Hearing on Monday, 10/28/13-Special Legislative Session

I am writing to encourage your SUPPORT (and YES vote) on Marriage Equality/Same Sex Marriages during the Special Session. Though I am heterosexual, I have several gay/lesbian friends who live here, and/or have ties to Hawaii and want to live and (legally) marry here. I have not seen or heard of any statistics or proof, anywhere around the world that shows Same Sex Marriages have ever brought adverse results to any community's economy or existence. Therefore, I see no reason to disallow Same Sex Marriages/Unions (especially for Survivorship/Inheritance reasons). I would rather have people (even of the same sex) loving one another (especially if it's not harming anyone) than hating each other or tearing each other down. I'm asking you to **consider that** when you hear debate on the issue of approving same sex marriages here in our beautiful State.

Please ALLOW Same Sex Marriages in Hawaii and let's (put this issue to rest once and for all, after at least 20 years of continuous debate) move on to all the other important issues (i.e., the economy, homelessness, hunger, education, mental health, etc.).

Everyone is entitled to his/her opinion. But I would like to be on record as SUPPORTING Marriage Equality in Hawaii. I support everyone's right to marry, whether they're straight, gay, or *whatever*…As long as they're in love, they should have a right to marry, regardless of their sexual preference. I especially sympathize with partners who have been together for many years, but currently in Hawaii, don't have the full benefits of "being reciprocal", as do heterosexual couples.

Please consider the civil rights of these individuals as you hear debate and take your final vote in the Special Session. Please vote YES for Equal Rights (regarding Marriage Equality in Hawaii).

Thank you,
Jane Pascual
Voter in Senate District 13

House District 29

From:	Laurie A Kawasaki
To:	Rep. Jessica Wooley
Cc:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 10:58:09 PM

Aloha Representative Wooley-

Thank you for serving our community. I live in your district on Alaloa Street in Kaneohe.

I have always believed that I have a legitimate right to let my voice be heard by our elected officials whom we the people put in office. As such, I would like to ask you to vote NO to the legalization of same gender marriage during the special legislative session on October 28th, 2013.

I believe that this issue is too important to be left to a few. Put this issue to a vote by the people; the very people you represent. I am sure you are well aware and the other legislators are aware that a majority of the people do not pay attention to the types of laws that you and your fellow legislators pass until its too late. Many don't understand what rights the law will take away or what beliefs the law will impose on them or their children.

I don't believe in same sex marriage but I do believe people have a right to their own beliefs . However, by making this law, you are taking away rights of one group and giving it to another group. The provision for religious exemptions will only apply to churches and does not protect an individuals right to religious freedom in the sense that we will not be able to express ourselves and our beliefs in public. This "law" would affect and discriminate against me. There are legitimate discrimination in place today. We have minors and adults, we have teachers and students, etc. If you allow same-sex marriage, how could we continue as a society to keep a man from marrying more than one woman? Why would you stop an adult from marrying a minor or having sex with a minor? Our discriminatory laws in place protects our minors and protects women. You put our children of the future at risk. How do we expect children to process what they are taught in a mother- father environment and what they hear from their best friend who lives with two mommies and has no Daddy? I ask that you think of the years ahead.

This is a first amendment right that you would be taking away for one group and giving to another. Give the gay community their rights but don't take away the religious communities or their congregations individual rights to

believe and carry out their beliefs. Our founding fathers came here for religious freedom. Please don't take this away.

Again, I ask for your kokua and your NO vote.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Laurie Kawasaki

From:	Neal Kawamoto
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	SB1 Written Testimony Vote NO
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 9:56:37 PM
Attachments:	SB1 written testimony.doc

Forwarding our written testimony.

Neal & Teresa Kawamoto

From: Susan
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony AGAINST the gay marriage bill
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:02:04 PM

Hello. We are Charles and Susan Kanehailua from Nanakuli. We are against the "gay marriage bill" because to define marriage as a union of two people of the same gender goes against God's definition of marriage. God made us in his image and made man and woman to be together to procreate.

Homosexuality is a lifestyle choice. I hear a lot about how discrimination against homosexuals is like racial or age discrimination. It absolutely is not. Race or age cannot be changed. Living as a homosexual can be changed.

There is no reason why the few who have chosen this lifestyle should define how this state will define marriage especially when the people of Hawaii have already made It very clear to you all that the definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

I urge you not to submit to the pressure of the gay rights lobbyists. Let this very important matter be decided by the people of Hawaii.

In the meantime We continue to keep all of you folks in prayer that God bless you and your families and that he open your eyes to his truth.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony.

Sent from my iPad

From: Donna Charles
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Freedom of Religion
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:08:45 PM

My name is Donna Charles and I reside at 73-1202 Hamo ST in Kailua Kona, Hawaii.

I am writing you to ask that you amend the Marriage Equality Bill. Specifically **section 572-G Religious organizations and facilities; liability exemption under certain circumstances** lines 6-10, that would require churches that are open to the public to perform same sex marriages. My church regularly host community events and is open to all the public. We welcome people from all walks of life. We ask that you respect our right not to solemnize a particular marriage based on our religious conscience. If this law is passed, as written you are forcing us to shut out the community and to practice our religion under ground. I know this can't be what you attend to accomplish with this bill.

I appreciate your help and ask that you please send me a response letting me know if you are able to pass a Bill that would preserve our nations great history of religious freedom as well as address the marriage equality issue. I believe you can pass a bill that will accomplish marriage equality without eroding our religious freedoms.

Thank you for your time and considering my request.

Donna Charles

From: Joanne McCollum
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: State Motto
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:58:07 PM

Our state motto states that "The LIFE of the land is perpetuated in RIGHTEOUSNES! PLEASE, be PONO in how you handle this issue. As with Adam, ALL succeeding generations will be affected!
Joanne

From: Kevin Charles
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: 572-G Religious
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:29:30 PM

My name is Kevin Charles and I reside at 73-1202 Hamo ST in Kailua Kona, Hawaii.

I am writing you to ask that you amend the Marriage Equality Bill. Specifically **section 572-G Religious organizations and facilities; liability exemption under certain circumstances** lines 6-10, that would require churches that are open to the public to perform same sex marriages. My church regularly host community events and is open to all the public. We welcome people from all walks of life. We ask that you respect our right not to solemnize a particular marriage based on our religious conscience. If this law is passed, as written you are forcing us to shut out the community and to practice our religion under ground. I know this can't be what you attend to accomplish with this bill.

I appreciate your help and ask that you please send me a response letting me know if you are able to pass a Bill that would preserve our nations great history of religious freedom as well as address the marriage equality issue. I believe you can pass a bill that will accomplish marriage equality without eroding our religious freedoms.

Thank you for your time and considering my request.

Sincerely,

Kevin Charles

From: Katherine Benson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: I Am Opposed to Senate Bill 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:48:37 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Katherine Benson and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Katherine Benson

From: DAWN PATTERSON
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:46:42 PM

Please hawaii representatives.I am not supporting same sex marriage in hawaii. The people of hawaii need to have more time and look at the bill and have time to think about this bill. It is our legal right to have more community mtgs and meet with representatives.Mahalo for your service and dedication to hawaii's people. Mahalo.

From: Darryl Willis
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:44:29 PM

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

THE SENATE

INTERIM OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Dear Senator Hee, Senator Shimabukuro, and other members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Darryl Willis, and I live at 340 Kapii Place, Hilo, HI 96720.

I would like to voice my opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality.

This is an important issue that should be taken up with a lot of time, thought and input from the people. This is how our democracy was meant to work. However, a special session treats the issue lightly in the sense that it is a rush job, and does not give ample consideration that other bills receive in a regular session. This bill at the very least needs the full consideration that a regular legislative session would provide. It is so important, it would even be better to put it on a ballot, and let the people decide directly. This is not a civil rights issue as the proponents say. It is about changing the definition of marriage.

I have 2 grandsons, both innocent and beautiful little boys, not yet in school, but that is not far off. It is a horrible thought that someday if this bill passes, they could and probably would be taught in school that same-sex relations are OK. It is wrong and clearly violates nature. The picture of my grandsons sitting in class learning instructions about homosexual acts is very distressing. This is the future if this bill passes. It's already happening elsewhere. This is about the proper definition of marriage being between one man and one woman. It is about our legacy of raising our families in a civil and moral society. Government has an obligation to the people to protect and maintain a society that is optimal for families and raising children. Changing the definition of marriage will cause this to decay.

Government can still find a way to provide benefits to same-sex couples. The alteration of the

definition of marriage is not necessary.

Please protect our religious freedom. Most churches are open to public functions and events. Government should not force churches to marry same-sex couples against their religious beliefs nor force into law doctrine that is so against the traditions of our country.

I urge you to stop this bill. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Darryl D. Willis

Registered voter: Senate District 1 and House District 2.

From: adrian matanza
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:37:50 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

adrian matanza
739a kahoa dr
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Mandy Gonce
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:35:45 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mandy Gonce
435 seaside ave. apt 907
honolulu, HI 98615

From: Heather Gonce
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:35:18 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Heather Gonce
435 Seaside Ave
Apt 907
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Stacy Fujieda
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:33:42 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Stacy Fujieda and my partner, Rebeca, and I have been together for almost 13 years. We have two daughters, Isa who is 6 and Maya who is 4. More than anything, we want to get married in order to protect our family. We want to be able to show our daughters the strength of their mothers' commitment. We want that piece of paper that says that we belong to one another. That we have chosen to be responsible for each other for the rest of our lives. Please help us bring marriage equality to Hawaii.

Stacy Fujieda
130 Uuku Street
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From: Rebecca Sabalones
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:31:45 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Rebecca Sabalones and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Rebecca

From: Greg Cooper
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:31:14 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Greg Cooper
2115 Ala Wai Blvd.
702
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: michael cox
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:28:46 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

michael cox
444 niu st apt 36028
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: James Wyatt
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:27:56 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

James Wyatt
2115 Ala Wai Blvd.
#702
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Norene Machida
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Written Testimony on Senate Bill S B 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:27:23 PM

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I stand firmly opposed on calling a special session and legalizing same sex marriage. In addition, I would like to recognize several gay couples, who are my dear friends, that have been together for over 20 years, who are also opposed to legalizing same sex marriage! I can only pray, they along with more same sex couples, will rise up to testify of their opposition. Not againist the choice they have made of being together, but of changing what we in America have stood by and defined marriage as one man and one woman. I presume their testimonies would be highlighted and better listened too, then from someone who is speaking from a religious stand point or moral view.

Somethings should never change, and this one tops the list. Change should always be for good, and for the good of most, not just some. Once you agree that this change is for good, you will become responsible for all the generations who will come under this law. This will re-identify a family unit by acknowledging parents as same gender, it will affect and radify sex education taught in schools. Has any research or studies been done on the effects of this law in states or countries that are now under this law? I would hope in the last 3 weeks before this special session convenes our representatives and senators have been traveling or studying affects good and bad.

As a parent born and raised in Hawaii with 3 generations born and raised here, I am opposed to our Legislators voting on this critical decision. When the question was put on the ballot, of who should make decisions based on marriage, I ignorantly believed it was best left in the hands of our government and could not conceive an issue of this magnitude would arise that could change history in 5 days! The lesson i learned through all of this is NEVER allow any law to be decided by our elected officials. The people of Hawaii should be given the opportunity to vote because this issue has too many detrimental short and long term effects that will impact future generations. Why does it seem so easy to call a special session to pass this bill and so hard to do the same for Hawaiian people to be recognized as a separate nation? The Hawaiian people have been struggling as long, if not longer, with changing and passing laws that gives them rights?

May God bless you and the people of Hawaii,

From: Chantel Vunipola
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Bill 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:26:38 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Chantel Wright and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that it is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, I would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature. As a recipient of the blessings of this great nation, which was founded for the purpose of religious freedom, I will not have this rite taken away from me.

Thank you,

Chantel Wright

From: Randy Erekson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: #SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:18:56 PM

October 28, 2013, 10:30a

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Bill #SB1

Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in opposition to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013. Redefining marriage not only affects the estimated 5% of Hawai'i residents who identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian, but will change society forever for the other 95% of Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But LET THE PEOPLE VOTE!

If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon. Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy

but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you VOTE IN OPPOSITION to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,

Randall 'H' Erekson

16-2088 Pukalani Drive
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: Shawn Reed
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:07:21 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Shawn J. Reed and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Shawn J. Reed

From: Dave DeCleene
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: "Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality"
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:27:14 PM

---

* Do not take upon yourselves, you politicians, the power to change the definition of marriage

* Let all of the people of Hawaii make this momentous decision

* Let the governor come up with the wording, and then get 2/3 vote in each chamber, and then put it as a Constitutional Amendment on the 2014 ballot

* DO THE RIGHT THING FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII, INCLUDING THOSE NOT YET BORN!

From: Colleen Doi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: voice of a registered voter
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:22:42 PM

Aloha, my name is Colleen Doi of 1250 Kumukoa Street Hilo, Hawaii 96720, a registered nurse at Hilo Medical Center Emergency room, mother of 2 and a registered voter. I am writing you today deeply saddened about Governor Abercrombie's decision to hold a special session to discuss same sex marriage. I feel that this is a violation of the democratic process due to the format of the special sessions. Please considered the option to **vote no** to same sex marriages during this special session and have this discussion of the same sex marriage bill held during the regular session due to the sensitive topic and the outcomes that will follow if this bill is passed during a special session. Let the people of Hawaii vote on this topic. **You hold this power**. I have recently discovered the outcomes of what has happened in Ontario Canada and Massachusetts USA in respect to the dramatic impact that same sex marriage being legalized has had on their educational system. If you know and care about any child in our future generations, please look into this matter closer to see if this is what you want for the Keiki of Hawaii. I am a supporter of Traditional Marriages.

Mahalo for your time,
Colleen Doi

From: teri wong
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:20:25 PM

Herman and Mae Won

3758A Manini Way

Honolulu, HI 96816

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 26, 2013

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear JDL Committee Members :

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of Hawaii. We truly appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. Therefore, We ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. We urge you to vote “no” to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

Our primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on our First Amendment rights, to express our freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii.

Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, we also stand to lose the right to express our religious views on traditional

marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as

others are able to express their differing views.

We believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment. We strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, we ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take

the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

We trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

Herman and Mae Won

From: Richard Wong
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Same Sex Marriage Bill
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:19:57 PM

Richard W. H. Wong

46-150 Nahiku Street

808-203-3878

richteri.wong@gmail.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear JDL Committee Members:

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of our Hawaii. I truly appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. Therefore, I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote “no” to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment. I

strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session. Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

From: Veroncia
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: same sex marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:04:11 PM

I am against same sex marriage. This is something that should be decide by the people and not left to those who have other motives for having a special session. It's a waste of the tax payer money.

A same sex partner is the choice of an individual. Don't make it every ones problem.

Marriage is between a man and a woman. As is stated in the bible. Some how you have forgotten that our country foundation was based on the bible.

Veronica Chang

From: teri wong
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:56:49 PM

Terilyn Wong
46-150 Nahiku St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744
235-2593

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 26, 2013

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear JDL Committee Members :
you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of Hawaii. I truly appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. Therefore, I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very
important issue. I urge you to vote “no” to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as
others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment. I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take
the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,
Terilyn Wong

From:	Emmons Connell
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:43:29 PM

Dear Legislators,

God is love. God wants ALL people to come to Him in faith and believe that His Son Jesus Christ is the Savior of all the world. Once God's Holy Spirit works in your heart to repent and believe this, you become one of his children. Out of thankfulness you do what God, who is a just God, wants you to do, as in, follow His rules joyfully. God's rules become your rules.
The bill as read condones homosexual acts in direct opposition to God's rules!
How can I go against my God?
Please vote NO on Same Sex Marriage.
Thanks for your time and attention.

Emmons and Mary Connell
208 Hoohale Place
Kihei HI 96753
875-1267

From: rosemary sam fong
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: S.B. NO.1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:41:29 PM

I a citizen of the United States of America and a resident of this the State of Hawaii, strongly OBJECT to this Bill regarding Marriage Equality. There have been longitudinal studies done case and point Canada and Massechusets and the affects of Same Gender Marriage on their communities. According to their studies the results were devastating on every level (the school system, parent rights, and what means more to you as law makers BUDGET).
Now, why do we have to address this subject again.
The Civil Union Bill already address what u are addressing on this Bill. WHY is it resurfacing again? I STRONGLY OPPOSE and OBJECT to this BILL. WE ARE THE MAJORITY, NOT THE MINORITY.

Respectfully yours,

Mrs. Rosemary Sam Fong.
Sent via BlackBerry from T-Mobile

From: miki.fumie@gmail.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony in opposition to SB 1 relating to Equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:10:39 PM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee of Judiciary and Labor,

I would like to voice my opinion that I am against any special session on the issue of same sex marriage.

It is my opinion that the issue of same sex marriage should be voted on just as it was in 1998. The use of a special session limits my and the people of Hawaii's right to express our opinion on this issue. It may result in legislation that does NOT represent the will of the people. Please let the people exercise their rights as citizens to have their voice be heard on this.

Thank you for your time,

Miki Uyeda

Sent from Windows Mail

From: Rita O"Hara
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Senate Bill 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:08:51 PM

I stand on written testimony in VERY STRONG SUPPORT of Senate Bill 1

Giving equal rights to all is something our constitution is based on. It is time to extend it to all couples.

Thank you in advance for passing this bill for it is long over due.

Sincerely,
Rita O'Hara
95-050 Hokuiwa St.
Mililani, HI 96789

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Lily Ong
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong Opposition to SB1 (Same Sex Marriage Bill) and Special Session on Oct. 28. 2013 at 10:30 am Honolulu, Hawaii
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:08:43 PM

To: The Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

From: Lily Y. Ong

Dear Chairperson Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

First of all, I strongly oppose to this special session being called for the issue of Same-Sex Marriage (SB1) in this economic hard time and spend taxpayers' money unnecessarily.

Same-sex marriage should not be passed in a special session because of the following five reasons to be stated briefly, most certainly there are still many other reasons:

1.) A five-day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time.

2.) No amendments can be made to the legislation. As a result, true democracy is made a mockery.

3.) Hawaii is the only state rushing into this special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision. If the need was truly dire, then why have not the other 34 states that do not permit same-sex marriage done so?

4.) A "yes' vote during special session is a "no" vote to democracy because the voice of the people is NOT heard in a five-day special session, specially if that voice is to "amend the bill".

5.) The people of the beautiful Aloha State voted this same-sex marriage issue in 1998 and had opposed same-sex marriage, why not let the people vote in regular election and uphold democracy?

Respectfully submitted,

Lily Y. Ong

From: Willard Samfongsr
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:02:56 PM

From:	Kathy Uyehara
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Commttee on Judiciary & Labor: SB1 10/28/13 10:30am - Same Sex Marriage Special Legislative Session Testimony
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:29:17 PM

Dear Committee on Judiciary and Labor:
Senator Clayton Hee Chair,
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair,
All members of the committee

re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights
Written only testimony

Thank you for accepting this testimony:

I respectfully request a "no" vote on the same sex marriage issue because of the process in which the decision making is being held.

A short, special legislative session does not allow for adequate review and discussion, nor adequate time to hear the majority voice of THE PEOPLE of Hawaii to understand their will, and then to thoroughly vet this controversial and important issue.

The decision on same sex marriage can have far reaching future impact on the state of Hawaii and should not be rushed. The current bill does not appear to have adequate protection of current rights of churches, which are an important part of the foundation of our people of the state. Again, please allow adequate time to review and vet all of the points in the bill so the rights of one group are not removed or restricted, which would be an unintended travesty of the democratic process.

The Supreme Court did NOT say they allow same sex marriage unconditionally, rather that they leave the decisions to the States to decide, so Hawaii is NOT doing something unconstitutional by not allowing same sex marriage immediately.

THANK YOU for accepting this testimony and for caring enough about Hawaii and it's people to be willing to serve in an elected office capacity. You have a tremendous responsibility on your shoulders and you are appreciated.

I will not be testifying in person, but intend to be at the hearing if space allows.

Sincerely,
Katherine R H Uyehara
Registered Voter
Newtown - Aiea, Hawaii

From: Joeysmom
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1 - Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:16:26 PM

Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My testimony opposing same-sex marriage in Hawaii is as follows.

Legalizing marriage for homosexuals is such an important issue that you should let the people decide.

Clearly, the governor of Hawaii and most of the legislators are imposing their will upon the people of Hawaii by calling this special session as if same sex marriage where the most important thing in the state. Forget about the homeless problem, unemployment, hungry children... Whatever rationale is behind this push for gay marriage, it is greatly offensive to all of us who feel compelled to defend traditional marriage and we would like a say on whether it should be legalized or not.

Moreover, those of us who believe in the preservation of marriage between one man and one woman are being vilified and called intolerant by those promoting same-sex marriages. Is this tolerant and all-embracing on their part?

Incredibly, we are being forced into a position to protect the institution of marriage which is a historical foundation of all civilization!

As aforementioned, I am opposed to this most contentious social issue in Hawaii being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousands of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Esther C. Gefroh

Honolulu, HI 96814

--
A Catholic Mom in Hawaii

Spiritual Moms Apostolate Blog

Prayers for Our Pets

St. Augustine's Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit that my thoughts may all be holy;
Act in me O Holy Spirit that my works, too, may be holy;
Draw my heart O Holy Spirit that I love but what is holy;
Strengthen me O Holy Spirit to defend all that is holy;
Guard me then O Holy Spirit that I always may be holy.

From: Michel Walls
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:09:49 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michel Walls
Ke st
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: ldmuraoka@aol.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: re: same sex marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:05:37 PM

Dear State Legislature,
Please consider my request to allow the people of the State of Hawaii to vote on Same Sex Marriage. We need the opportunity to make our personal preference known. Allowing only seventy legislators to change the sanctity of marriage for a million people is a very un-wise move. I ask each of you, personally, "Are you sure that it is something you want to have weighing on your life?" For certainly, there will be negative consequences. Negative effects may not show up soon but eventually it come to the demise of "healthy American families". I suppose for most of you, who do believe in what is right, when you see the future havoc caused by a "pro-vote" you will wish that you had listened to wise counsel. Except it will be "too late"!

Ideally, studies of cause and effect could help shed light whether this is right or wrong. But since that is not an option at this time then it only seems fair that the public should have a say about changes wanting to be made to this very sacred institution of marriage. The union between Man and Woman was given to us by God himself for the benefit, preservation and good of mankind.

Thank-you for hearing my request.
Sincerely,
Darelyn Muraoka

From: Kimberly Langley
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1, Marriage Equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:02:34 PM

Aloha,

I am writing to urge you to pass SB 1. I believe there is no legal or moral reason to exclude gay and lesbian couples from the legal institution of marriage and the protection the law provides.

There are many people focused on the religious exemptions in the bill. There are already established guidelines for determining permissible private prejudice and illegal discrimination in providing public accommodations. I do not believe there are any legal reasons for including the language on religious exemptions.

However, if including this unnecessary language aides in providing marriage equality, then it is needed.

Please, pass SB1, Relating to Equal Rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely

Kim Langley

Kahaluu, Hawaii

From: Dean Miyamoto
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Fast forward 5 day session = democracy in reverse
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:56:47 PM

Honor Democracy in Hawaii

Please Vote **NO** to Same Sex Marriage So Hawaii's Voice Can Be Heard With More Time

Hi. As a registered voter I am very concerned about how this session is being processed. You were recognized and voted for your integrity and hard work. You are entrusted with the great responsibility to hold democracy in the highest respect and honor what the people will stand for. You are expected by the people to research different views and how a bill would change Hawaii. Thank you for taking on such a courageous difficult task. I know you will not disappoint Democracy in Hawaii.

1. Exercise Democracy. Vote **NO** to allow adequate time for sufficient public input.

2. Rushing five/six days is too little time to hear the voice of Hawaii. Lets face it, in a suffering economy, everyone is busy and needs more time for any issue to be voiced.

3. This is **not** an emergency bill amendment. Why Fast-forward it?

4. Five/Six days is not enough time to discuss or research such serious effects and changes this would lead to in beloved unique Hawaii.

5. Rushing will lead to buyer's remorse (society remorse/voters remorse)

6. According to the Supreme Court, marriage is not a civil right. It should be decided by the people. This requires ample time to voice concerns.

7. It is fundamental that a constitutional amendment should be decided by the people rather than an elite few within a quick inadequate five/six day session.

8. This is not a religious issue. This is a Democracy issue.

9. A "yes" vote is actually a "no" to democracy

10. Homosexuals should be respected just like everybody else, not given specially privileged quick bill amendments.

Why is democracy pushed aside to rush a non-urgent yet very serious amendment?

From: Judy Kanbe
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB 1 Special Session 10.28.13
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:37:22 PM

From: Judy M. Kanbe
45-620 Keneke St.
(808) 247-5015
judyk@hawaii.rr.com

To: Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Date: October 26, 2013

Dear Senator Clayton Hee,

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of our District. I

appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. As my Senator, I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote "no" to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional

marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment.
I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

Judy M. Kanbe

From: kenji andrade
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: DO NOT PASS S.B. 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:36:01 PM

I am a citizen of Hawaii, born and raised. I am a registered voter, a husband, a father, a county of Hawaii employee and a Christian. I stand firmly AGAINST this hasty and quick special session called to pass senate bill 1. The governor decided that in a mere 5 short days, we can determine the fate of Hawaii and all the repercussions that will come from passing same sex marriage? Really?!

This bill does NOT adequately protect my religious freedom. While the gay people cry for their rights to be protected, I am standing up for mine. By passing this bill, you strip me of my religious freedom. What right do you have to impose churches to face the consequences of this bill, and furthermore, private businesses, run by Christians who DON'T believe in same sex marriage. Why can you force us to abide by what we DON'T believe?

It has been pointed out to me that in these areas, this bill is flawed:

(1) Many churches have nonprofit organizations to help them carry out their religious missions, such as religious schools and colleges like BYU-Hawaii. The Senate bill covers only "religious organizations." Unlike protections in other states, it does not protect these other important institutions that are vital to churches.

(2) The Senate bill protects churches from having to host same-sex marriage ceremonies on their religious properties or in their places of worship, such as an LDS meetinghouse. That is important, but not good enough. Unlike protections in other states, the Senate bill does not protect churches from also having to host same-sex wedding receptions and other related celebrations, or from having to provide other goods and services in connection with same-sex marriages, like marriage counseling.

(3) Many churches charge fees for the use of their chapels for weddings so they can use the additional money to support important religious activities, such as their youth ministry or program to feed the hungry. The Senate bill excludes protections for churches that do so.

The Senate Bill Does NOT Protect Individuals From Being Forced to Support Same-Sex Marriage

The Senate bill would force individuals and family businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs:

(1) The Senate bill does not protect photographers and others (whether as individuals or small family businesses) from being forced to directly assist in celebrating same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs. In fact, the bill has no protections for individuals or small family businesses, even if the business is operated according to religious principles.

(2) The Senate bill does not protect county clerks and other government employees from having to perform same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs, even when other government employees are available to do so at no inconvenience to the same-sex couple. Government employees who cannot perform such marriages because of their religious beliefs will likely be fired.

The Senate Bill Does NOT Protect Parents

The Senate bill provides no protections for the right of religious parents to remove their children from public school classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of marriage between a man and a woman.

You are NOT allowed to teach my children YOUR morals of same sex marriage. That is MY job to teach them. I insist that I be able to RESERVE the RIGHT to REMOVE my child from the school when lessons regarding ANYTHING that deals with same sex marriage. Teach my children math and reading, but DON'T you dare tell my child that same sex marriage is "normal".

This bill is flawed in so many ways. Let us vote on this bill. Let me have a voice. Don't be my voice, when your voice may be different than mine. Don't assume I'm okay with this bill, because I'm not.

Thank You,
Kenji

From: Joy Kuraoka
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:28:22 PM

Joy Kuraoka
46-1009 Emepela Way #20D
Kaneohe, HI 96744
jgirl03@hawaii.rr.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear Committee,

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of our District. I truly appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life.
I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote "no" to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment.
I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,
Joy Kuraoka

From: Yolanda Abad
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1 Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:17:03 PM

October 26, 2013

To: Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
From: Yolanda Abad
Re: In Strong OPPOSITION to SB1, relating to "Equal Rights"
Hearing Day & Date: Monday, October 28, 2013
Hearing Time & Place: 10:30 a.m. in the Hawai'i State Capitol Auditorium

To Chair, Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
My name is Yolanda Abad, I am a resident born and raised in Hawaii, and currently work in the admissions office of a private school. As a concerned citizen, I am testifying against and oppose SB 1 for the following reasons:
1. The five days allotted for this special session is too short and does not allow a reasonable period for "we the people" to exercise an "equal right' in the democratic process, to voice concerns, problems, and issues concerning a highly sensitive and controversial matter.
2. The people of Hawaii voted in 1998 and legislation was passed to define marriage as between a man and a woman; an amendment **canno**t be made to legislation.
3. The "religious exemption" entitlement is nullified by the public accommodation clause and leaves the church vulnerable to lawsuits. The First Amendment states that government may neither establish a religion nor prohibit the free exercise of religious practices. When government says "it doesn't matter what you believe or practice, you must adhere to solemnizing a same gender union (a sin) and call it marriage", it denies and prohibits Freedom of Religion as provided in the First Amendment of our U. S. Constitution.
4. I deplore and object to the forthcoming indoctrination of Homosexuality and the effects of the homosexual behavior upon our young children, families, the educational system, our parental rights, and church if, same gender marriages are legislated into law.
Please, I urge you to vote **NO** to **SB1** and allow the people of Hawaii to decide and vote on this important and far-reaching issue.
Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Yolanda Abad

From:	Richard Nettell
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	equality in marriage
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:41:39 PM

---

as someone with many non-heterosexual friends in (very) long-term relationships, i would like to express my wholehearted support for the proposed (so-called) gay marriage bill. it is absolutely incredible that hawaii has taken this long to grant all of our citizens equal rights to legalize, through marriage (if that be their choice), their relationship with another person regardless of the biological gender stated on their birth cerftificate.

as various supreme courts in the us have already ruled, there is absolutely no legal justification for continuing to uphold a caste system that denies a substantial proportion of our fellow citizens equal rights...

please pass this measure!

Richard Westbury Nettell, Ph.D.
Asst. Professor
English Department
University of Hawaii at Manoa
Honolulu, HI 96822

(808) 956-3036

From: kellitenille@aim.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Marriage Equality Act Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:20:26 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Kelli Wood and I live in the town of Laie, here in Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, i would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Kelli Wood

From: Richard S. Miller
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SAME SEX MARRIAGE
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:18:51 PM

To: Senate Committee

From: Richard S. Miller, Prof. of Law, Emeritus and former dean, WSRSL

Senate Committee hearing Same-Sex Marriage bill

Dear Senators,

Kindly consider the following testimony:

ANY LAW DENYING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL , LACKS COMPASSION, AND IS UNNECESSARY

In a front page headline in the Star-Advertiser of Tuesday, October 22nd, the Hawaii Pastors Roundtable is credited with declaring that "God's word is the highest law of the land" and urging the Hawai'i Legislature "to uphold traditional marriage." Furthermore, "[t]he pastors cited the Book of Genesis for God's plan that marriage is a life-long commitment *between a man and a woman."* (Emphasis added.)

First, the Book of Genesis does not say anything about marriage. Here is what it says:

Chap 27 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

Chap.**28** "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

It did not say anything about marriage and it certainly did not say that those who cannot procreate, like a man and woman couple one of whom is sterile, or same sex couples, cannot marry.

But even if it did prohibit marriage between same-sex couples, it would violate our Constitution to impose such a religious rule on same-sex couples who disagree and wish to marry. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . . ." And the Fourteenth Amendment, which has long been understood as making the Bill of Rights applicable to the States as well as the federal government, provides "No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States . . . ."

Happily for those citizens who believe in and rely upon the Constitution's protection for freedom of religion, the pastors have made very clear that, at least in their view, the opposition to same-sex marriage that they are urging is a biblical/religious concept. Enforcing that upon those who are not in agreement with a biblical directive opposing same-sex marriage, if there was one, or with the religion that requires such opposition rather clearly constitutes an "establishment of religion." And further, making that religious requirement mandatory inhibits others whose religion disagrees and interferes with "the free exercise" of their religion.

Thus, while they may indeed be well-intentioned, the pastors of the Roundtable have provided strong support for the principle that those who seek same-sex marriage are protected by the Bill of Rights from religious commands which they do not share. And while it is easy to understand why the pastors might feel that the Book of Genesis, *if it were applicable*, takes precedence, it is truly difficult to understand how they can ignore the need for empathy for those persons of any faith, or none at all, who truly and dearly love their would-be same-sex spouses as much, and maybe even more, than the pastors themselves loved their spouses. If, indeed, same-sex marriage troubles God – and there appears to be no evidence of that – then the Pastors, at least, should believe that God can provide an adequate punishment, now or in the afterlife, and that they should be compassionate and keep their hands off.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

R. S. Miller, Prof. of Law, Emeritus and former Dean

Richard S.Miller, Prof. of Law, Emer.
315 Iliaina St. Kailua, HI 96734
E-mail: rmiller@aya.yale.edu
Phone: 808-254-1796

From: Sosefina Tuimalealiifano
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SAME SEX MARRIAGE IS A SIN
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:46:06 PM

I'm a citizen and a resident of Hawaii. I'm so happy to voice my opinion online since I'm away from the island of Oahu. There are so many signs around our environment and all nations of this world that tells us that the end of this world is right at the door. People should confess and repent from their sins but what? The king of the demons; Lucifer has distracted their hearts by materialistic things they see, the lust of the eye and the heart grows in them and that they forgot the love of God through His son Jesus Christ who died for us because of our sins; to save you and me. The same sex marriage and homosexual thing are in Hell and they belong there; just like Sodom and Gomorah.

I don't want to live in a place that our children grew up and witness the evil ways of the devil and how these people live - a man kissing a man or a woman kissing a woman, it will just make our kids confused and follow these evil ways. We're trying to teach our kids how to live right and clean before God. Same sex marriage - you say this is love, I don't think so, its sick and you need to read your bible. The devil is winning you to his world and that is Hell.

Jesus is the Way, the Life and the Truth. He's waiting for you to repent and come to Him. The Kingdom of Heaven is your home for God is love. For God so loved the world that He sent his only begotten Son, for whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting love.

God bless and have a good day.

Sosefina

From: Pauline
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:15:06 PM

PLease consider the people of Hawaii and not rush or feel pressured to make such an important decision in one week. This will affect our future. Let the people's hearts and voices be heard. Let the voters make the choice.
Mahalo!
Pauline Spencer
Paulineguy@yahoo.com
Hilo, Hawaii

Sent from my iPhone

From: gfeast@hawaii.rr.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:11:16 PM

I am in GREAT and FULL SUPPORT of marriage equality! It's about time that ALL people have the SAME rights!!!

From:	Laura Battad
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Same sex marriage
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:59:44 AM

Neil & Laura Battad

#(808) 306-7007/ (808)216-9160
E-mail: nbattad@hotmail.com / lkbattad@gmail.com

Subject: Special Session On Same Sex Marriage

Dear Honorable Senator or Dear Representative:

As a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any Same Sex Marriage issue.

As a voter in the State of Hawaii, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process.

It is my opinion that the issue of Same Sex Marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent.

In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the voters of the State of Hawaii. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that He will continue to encourage you in all that you do.

God Bless,

Neil & Laura Battad

From: Donnette Tew
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly; Donnette Tew
Subject: Senate Bill 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:56:54 AM

October 23, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

We are opposed to S.B. 1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. If enacted, the bill ends the definition of marriage as has been followed for centuries. The traditional definition of marriage respects and protects the marriage relationship as one built to protect children by promoting that the ideal family is one in which children live with their parents, their mother and father, who have covenanted with each other, the state, and with others, to take responsibility for their family. If this longstanding definition of marriage is stopped to one in which is based mainly on an agreement between adults, we believe it will result in the continued denigration of the family with results that will harm individuals, families, communities, and societies for generations to come.

If the legislature does still pass the bill, we urgently request that the wording be changed so that it does not force upon individuals and churches who oppose the law to to take actions directly in opposition of their religious beliefs. For centuries, this country has held that one of our most cherished and protected liberties is the liberty to have one's religious views respected by law. Individuals who oppose same-sex marriage for long-held and cherished religious reasons are not bigots. But according to this bill, they would be forced to act in support of marriages to which they are sincerely opposed. Those who work in the wedding service industry (e.g. wedding planners, bakers, photographers) would be required to serve same-sex weddings even though they are religiously opposed to them. No one should required to do that.

In addition, it is very likely that churches would be required to open their doors to same-sex activities or else deny the use of their facilities to all but the most formal religious ceremonies of their own people. Churches should never be required to do this. We sincerely hope that the our First Amendment religious freedoms will not be restricted to this.

Some may argue that if people are not required to serve same-sex marriages that those planning same-sex marriages will not have access to wedding serves or places for their ceremonies. This is undoubtedly not true. There will more than plenty of businesses and facilities willing to provide the services; it is more likely that those who serve same-sex marriages will be extra profitable. Those who oppose same-sex marriages may suffer

financially, but they should not be required to act contrary to their beliefs or end their business.

We respectfully request that you vote in opposition to S.B. 1, which would have such a negative impact on our state.

Sincerely,

Glade and Donnette Tew
55-629A Iosepa Street
Laie, HI 96762

From: Janell Yim
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: OPPOSITION TO SB1 The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:42:23 AM

JANELL YIM

3270 PAWAINA STREET

HONOLULU, HI 96822

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair

The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

I will not be present at the hearing, therefore; I am submitting my written testimony

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Tolerance, Same-Sex Marriage and Religious Freedom.

Dallin H. Oaks, a former Utah Supreme Court Judge, in 2013 awarded the prestigious Canterbury Medal for his lifetime of service in promoting the cause of religious freedom and presently a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints stated.

'Those who favor homosexual marriage contend that “tolerance” demands that they be given the same right to marry

as heterosexual couples

Tolerance obviously requires a non-contentious manner of relating toward one another's differences. But tolerance does not require abandoning one's standards or one's opinions on political or public policy choices. Tolerance is a way of reacting to diversity, not a command to insulate it from examination.

The Church does not condone abusive treatment of others and encourages its members to treat all people with respect. However, speaking out against practices with which the Church disagrees on moral grounds – including same-sex marriage – does not constitute abuse or the frequently misused term "hate speech.".. But today's politically palatable definition insists that unless one accepts the "sin" he does not tolerate the "sinner". We can express genuine love and friendship for the homosexual family member or friend without accepting the practice of homosexuality or any re-definition of marriage.

Legalizing same-sex marriage will affect a wide spectrum of government activities and policies. Once a state government declares that same-sex unions are a civil right, those governments almost certainly will enforce a wide variety of other policies intended to ensure that there is no discrimination against same-sex couples. This may well place "church and state on a collision course."

The prospect of same-sex marriage has already spawned legal collisions with the rights of free speech and of action based on religious beliefs. For example, advocates and government officials in certain states already are challenging the long-held right of religious adoption agencies to follow their religious beliefs and only place children in homes with both a mother and a father. As a result, Catholic Charities in Boston has stopped offering adoption services.

Other advocates of same-sex marriage are suggesting that tax exemptions and benefits be withdrawn from any religious organization that does not embrace same-sex unions. Public accommodation laws are already being used as leverage in an attempt to force religious organizations to allow marriage celebrations or receptions in religious facilities that are otherwise open to the public. Accrediting organizations in some instances are asserting pressure on religious schools and universities to provide married housing for same-sex couples. Student religious organizations are being told by some universities that they may lose their campus recognition and benefits if they exclude same-sex couples from club membership.

Many of these examples have already become the legal reality in several nations of the European Union, and the European Parliament has recommended that laws guaranteeing and protecting the rights of same-sex couples be made uniform across the EU. Thus, if same-sex marriage becomes a recognized civil right, there will be substantial conflicts with religious freedom. And in some important areas, religious freedom may be diminished." ("The Divine Institution of Marriage"-Dallin H. Oaks)

INTERESTING RESEARCH FINDINGS SHOW LACK OF "TOLERANCE" WITH GAY MEN TOWARDS TRANSGENDERS OF THE MALE TO FEMALE POPULATION:

WHILE WORKING ON MY SOCIAL WORK MASTERS DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII-ANOTHER COLLEAGUE (MY CLOSE LESBIAN FRIEND-AFTER YEARS IS STILL MY CLOSE FRIEND) AND I DECIDED TO DO OUR RESEARCH ON THE TRANSGENDER POPULATION. SHE INITIATED WORKING WITH THIS POPULATION. THIS WAS BASED ON QUALITATIVE RESEARCH. TO OUR SURPRISE, OUR FINDINGS SHOWED SOMETHING QUITE TROUBLING. HERE IS WHAT WE DISCOVERED.

ALL OF THOSE WE HAD INTERVIEWED, PASSIONATELY EXPRESSED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATED THE MOST AMONGST GAY MEN THAN ANY OTHER POPULATION (HETEROSEXUAL, WOMEN, STRAIGHT MEN). THEY CONTINUED BY EXPRESSING HOW SOME OF THESE GAY MEN WOULD AT TIMES LET THEM KNOW THAT THEY ARE A DISGRACE TO THE MALE

GENDER AND WERE ALSO TREATED WITH HATE, MALICE, CRUELTY, EMBARRASSMENT AND SHAME.

WHAT IS INTERESTING ABOUT THIS FINDING IS THE FACT THAT THESE GAY MEN, HAVE ALSO FELT AND EXPERIENCED THE HARMING EFFECTS OF INTOLERANCE, YET THEY WERE NOW DISPLACING THIS SAME TYPE OF INHUMANE BEHAVIOR ON THIS TRANSGENDER POPULATION. YOU WOULD THINK THERE WOULD BE SOME EMPATHY AND "TOLERANCE" TO WHAT THESE GAY MEN HAVE EXPERIENCED.

IS IT REALLY ABOUT “EQUAL RIGHTS” AND THE ISSUE OF ‘INTOLERANCE”? SOMETHING TO REALLY PONDER AND EXAMINE.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Janell Yim

Hawaii Voter

From: motonagav001@hawaii.rr.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:42:23 AM

Aloha Everyone,

In behalf of my family, the Motonaga-Hauanio Ohana, we oppose the SSM (Same-Sex Marriage) passing in this Special Election. Please Let The People Vote in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you,

Venus & Paul Motonaga, Keren & Shalom Motonaga, Ronson & Ryan Hauanio\
1265-E Kaumana Dr
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Dawn
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:41:38 AM

Dawn and Peyton Daido
46-056 Ipuka Street
235-3698
Dawn-dca@hawaii.rr.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear Committee:

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people. I truly appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. I ask you to consider and make known among your peers our position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote "no" to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as

others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment.
I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,
Dawn and Peyton Daido

From: Janell Yim
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: RESEARCH FINDING SHOWS GAY MEN INTOLERANT TO TRANSGENDERS
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:35:44 AM

JANELL YIM
3270 PAWAINA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96822

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will not be present at the hearing, therefore; I am submitting my written testimony
*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,
I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Tolerance, Same-Sex Marriage and Religious Freedom.

Dallin H. Oaks, a former Utah Supreme Court Judge, in 2013 awarded the prestigious Canterbury Medal for his lifetime of service in promoting the cause of religious freedom and presently a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints stated.

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Tolerance obviously requires a non-contentious manner of relating toward one another’s differences. But tolerance does not require abandoning one’s standards or one’s opinions on political or public policy choices. Tolerance is a way of reacting to diversity, not a command to insulate it from examination.

The Church does not condone abusive treatment of others and encourages its members to treat all people with respect. However, speaking out against practices with which the Church disagrees on moral grounds – including same-sex marriage – does not constitute abuse or the frequently misused term “hate speech.”.. But today’s politically palatable definition insists that unless one accepts the "sin" he does not tolerate the "sinner". We can express genuine love and friendship for the homosexual family member or friend without accepting the practice of homosexuality or any re-definition of marriage.

Legalizing same-sex marriage will affect a wide spectrum of government activities and policies. Once a state government declares that same-sex unions are a civil right, those governments almost certainly will enforce a wide variety of other policies intended to ensure that there is no discrimination against same-sex couples. This may well place “church and state on a collision course.”

The prospect of same-sex marriage has already spawned legal collisions with the rights of free speech and of action based on religious beliefs. For example, advocates and government officials in certain states already are challenging the long-held right of religious adoption agencies to follow their religious beliefs and only place children in homes with both a mother and a father. As a result, Catholic Charities in Boston has stopped offering adoption services.

Other advocates of same-sex marriage are suggesting that tax exemptions and benefits be withdrawn from any religious organization that does not embrace same-sex unions. Public accommodation laws are already being used as leverage in an attempt to force religious organizations to allow marriage celebrations or receptions in religious facilities that are otherwise open to the public. Accrediting organizations in some instances are asserting pressure on religious schools and universities to provide married housing for same-sex couples. Student religious organizations are being told by some universities that they may lose their campus recognition and benefits if they exclude same-

sex couples from club membership.
Many of these examples have already become the legal reality in several nations of the European Union, and the European Parliament has recommended that laws guaranteeing and protecting the rights of same-sex couples be made uniform across the EU. Thus, if same-sex marriage becomes a recognized civil right, there will be substantial conflicts with religious freedom. And in some important areas, religious freedom may be diminished." ("The Divine Institution of Marriage"-Dallin H. Oaks)

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WHAT IS INTERESTING ABOUT THIS FINDING IS THE FACT THAT THESE GAY MEN, HAVE ALSO FELT AND EXPERIENCED THE HARMING EFFECTS OF INTOLERANCE, YET THEY WERE NOW DISPLACING THIS SAME TYPE OF INHUMANE BEHAVIOR ON THIS TRANSGENDER POPULATION. YOU WOULD THINK THERE WOULD BE SOME EMPATHY AND "TOLERANCE" TO WHAT THESE GAY MEN HAVE EXPERIENCED.

IS IT REALLY ABOUT “EQUAL RIGHTS” AND THE ISSUE OF ‘INTOLERANCE”? SOMETHING TO REALLY PONDER AND EXAMINE.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,
Janell Yim
Hawaii Voter

From: Lucy and Steve
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:11:34 AM

Stephen R. Meek
PO Box 982
Pepeekeo, Hawaii 96783

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am personally opposed to the bill for same sex marriage. However, I am even more opposed to the way this major issue is being addressed. A special session greatly limits the voice of the Hawaii people. In a special session the legislative process will be crammed into a few short days with the voice of the people having little if any impact. If we delay this important issue just a couple of months the people will have many more chances to voice their opinions during the many weeks of the upcoming normal session of the legislators. Why the rush!

At this time .2% of Hawaii residents (that's 2 of every 1000) are engaged in civil unions. Most if not all the people wanting same sex marriage are those now in civil unions. Is delaying the 2 out of 1000 people for a couple of months worth greatly limiting the voice of most of the other 998 of 1000 people? In a regular session some of the major issues that could be more fully examined include- are there any other ways to give the certain privileges being sought to the 2 out of 1000 people. Are some of the rights of the 998 out of 1000 people going to be denied due to this new law? At this time the language of the new law will infringe on many of the rights of the 998. In other states where same sex marriage has been passed the rights of businesses, churches, and parents have already been smashed. (For evidences see: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZX55HUPFSU&feature=share)

We should either put this important issue to the vote of the people or put it through the normal legislative process where the people will be able to give a full voice to the issue. On issues of this magnitude the voice of the people should not be diminished. If the rights of many the 998 out of 1000 are being diminished and they can at least have a full voice before those rights are being diminished is one thing. But if you are diminishing those rights while at the same time greatly limiting the voice of these 998 to speak about it is another thing. Either put this most important issue to a vote of the people or stop the special session and let the people give full voice to their concerns in the regular legislative session which will take place in a couple of short months.

Stephen R. Meek

From: Jo-Ann Adams
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB1 by Rev. Sky St. John, Senior Minister, Unity Church of Hawaii (See attached)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:12:05 PM

UNITY Church of Hawai'i
realize our oneness with God and each other

3608 Diamond Head Circle, Honolulu, HI 96815

October 26, 2013

TO: Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Hee, Chair; Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE & TIME: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

PLACE: Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1 – EQUAL RIGHTS

I ☐will ☒will not testify in person.

To the Judiciary Committee:

I am the Senior Minister at Unity Church of Hawaii, located at the base of Diamond Head. It has been my privilege to lead this congregation for the past eight years.

At Unity Church of Hawai'i, we believe in the Oneness of God and that God's love flows equally to all beings. We support equal rights and justice for all.

Included in our welcoming brochure is the following diversity statement: "We believe in celebrating the rich diversity of humanity. All people, regardless of class, color, ability, age, or sexual orientation are encouraged to share their gifts and talents in the life and leadership of our church."

We are grateful that by passing this equal rights bill, we will finally be able to marry all couples within our congregation who wish to enter into a lawful marriage.

We thank you for your consideration of this bill and your respect for religious diversity.

Very truly yours,

Rev. Sky St. John

From:	Tiffany Turner
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:11:44 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tiffany Turner
746 Pala Circle
Kahului, HI 96732

From: ISRAEL ROSA
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:08:57 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

ISRAEL ROSA
1925 KALAKAUA AVENUE #2802
HONOLULU, HI 96815

From: Terry Takaki
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Support of Traditional Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:07:27 PM

To whom it may concern:

I would like to add my testimony for the support of traditional marriage, and to have absolute exclusions (no exceptions) for religious organizations and religious affiliated organizations in this bill under consideration.

Laws should be designed to protect the well-being of the human race. That well-being happens only as people abide by laws that were given to us by a wise and loving Heavenly Father. This is evident throughout the course of human history. Part of those laws are that a man and a woman unified in legal and lawful marriage become one and replenish the earth. Any deviation from this sacred union is not of God and is easy to see. If we did not follow this at all, the whole human race would cease to exist in the space of a single lifetime. If the whole of us were in same sex unions or marriages the same extinction process would happen. Same gender unions can't bear children, it is not a matter of rights, it is by divine design and can't be changed by legislation.

Thank you for this opportunity for me to voice my opinion.

Terry Takaki

From: Augusto Tulba
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:06:47 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Augusto Tulba
2420 Kuhio Ave. Apt. 106
Honolulu, HI 96815

From:	Todd Luckey
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:06:38 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Todd Luckey
2420 Kuhio Ave 106
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Lee McIntosh
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony for SB 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:04:22 PM

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
SB 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
I will not be testifying in person.

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Aloha, my name is Lee McIntosh. I live in Kau on the Big Island. I am not in favor of SB 1, which legalizes homosexual marriage. This important issue should be decided by the people through a constitutional amendment, just as it was in 1998. Whatever your interpretation, its purpose was to prevent the courts from instituting homosexual marriage. If the Legislature believes that public opinion has changed since 1998, then another constitutional amendment should be presented for us to vote on in 2014. This is not a civil rights issue. If it was, then no exemptions would be necessary. The exemptions in SB 1 are weak and fail to provide adequate religious protection for individuals following their beliefs. There is no reason to rush this matter, especially in a special session which prevents amendments and adequate debate. Please do not redefine marriage out of fear of reprisal because it is a plank of the Hawaii Democrat party. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 1.

From: JERRY ALERTA
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:04:21 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

JERRY ALERTA
01-1040 Hoohilu St.
Ewa Beach, HI 96796

From:	Corey Koruan
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:02:41 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Corey Koruan
47-675 Lamaula Rd. Apt. L
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Michael Vargas
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:02:32 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michael Vargas
2444 hihiwai st apt 604
honolulu, HI 96826

From: betsy kositwongsakul
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:01:38 PM

My name is Betsy Kositwongsakul and I am opposing the bill named "SB1" that would be affecting traditional marriage and rights.

I love my gay friends and believe that everyone should receive and benefit from the same constitutional rights. I feel that legal benefits should occur between domestic partners and such. However, I do believe that marriage is ordained of God and should be between a man and a woman. This is marriage. We can not redefine this. It is not up to us.

Also, if this bill passes, families, private organizations, religions and so on will be at risk. They, by law, will have to honor same-sex marriage and have no legal rights about the issue. This is unconstitutional. Do not legally tell me what I have to believe.

Please make the decision to let the people vote on this bill. It is not up to the lawmakers on this one. It needs a democratic vote.

From: giovanni marone
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:01:27 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

giovanni marone
1856 king hall 80k
hickam afb, HI 96853

From: Glenna Maikui
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:58:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Glenna Maikui
1635 Kewalo St
Apt 201
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Stephanie Ferante
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:57:59 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Stephanie Ferante
1720 Ala Moana Blvd Apt G208
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Joyce Tamayose Quinn
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Committee on Judiciary and Labor re: SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:56:20 PM

For the hearing on Mon., October 28, 10:30 a.m.

To the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Please do not pass the law on your own but let the voters decide. This is a very sensitive issue which will affect our children in public schools. If the law is passed, they will be forced to accept that gay marriage or relationships are normal and natural and will be called bigots for their beliefs. They will be told to read books which depict the gay lifestyle as normal and natural. In fact, the media seems to promote or insist that gay characters are portrayed and that they be openly gay.

Respectfully,

Joyce Quinn

From: JUAN ROSARIO
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:56:11 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

JUAN ROSARIO
400 HOBRON LANE #3607
HONOLULU, HI 96815

From: Derek Camacho
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:54:55 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Derek Camacho
400 Hobron Lane Apt 3607
Honolulu, HI 96815

From:	Phil Gagnon
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:54:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Phil Gagnon
1437 St Louis Dr
honolulu, HI 96816

From: Annalee Herrera
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:53:13 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Annalee Herrera
731 Maluniu St.
Kailua, HI 96734

From: kayla ponce
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:52:26 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

kayla ponce
731 Maluniu Ave
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Michael O"Shaughnessy
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Cc: Michael O"Shaughnessy; Kanai
Subject: Written Testimony Against Same Sex Marriage Law
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:48:46 PM

Marriage is a sacred covenant between a man and women. What are the proponents of same sex marriage trying to do, rewrite the Holy Bible and Hawaii Centuries old History? That would be wrong! Let the people of Hawaii decide on this important issue of marriage and not the Legislature.

Furthermore, to grant special benefits and privileges to a certain group of people is discriminatory towards heterosexual males and females. The issue of same sex marriage is not like race in which a person has no control over the color of his or her skin of which they were born. Same sex is a matter of choice and life-style not to be confused or associated with class or race. Homosexuality is a life-style, which is harmful to the family and society as a whole.

I strongly urge Governor Abercrombie and the Legislature to allow the people of Hawaii to vote on Marriage. The public will support whatever the outcome will be.

Sincerely,

Ava O'Shaughnessy

From: scott ford
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:48:26 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

scott ford
1151 Nuuanu Ave
PT 207
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Charlene Cuaresma
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:46:13 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I have relatives, friends, colleagues and co-workers, who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. Their dignity and humanity, and that of their respective families, hinge on this bill, as they, like others, strive to engage in society as responsible, contributing family and community members.

By upholding this bill, you as lawmakers can champion a win-win situation that is laid forth by the "separation of church and state". While the personal religious beliefs of individuals are protected under the constitution, matters of equality in the public domain should be protected to avoid someone else‘s religious practices to be the basis for legislation that would determine the legal status of people‘s choice of who they can and cannot marry.

Likewise, my son is "hapa", as is nearly half of all children born in Hawai`i. Had unjust and flawed laws, based on racism, not been overturned in the past, inter-racial marriages and inter-racial children would be illegal today.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Charlene Cuaresma
Private Citizen whose family members are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and straight

Charlene Cuaresma
728 Nunu St.
Kailua, HI 96734

From: nona_fuller@yahoo.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:44:40 PM

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I want to thank you for the many years you serve as a politician for the people.

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people.

When I voted against same sex marriage in November 1998, I thought this issue was over and done with. Little did I know that there was a clause stating that the legislature had a right to revise what I had voted against. How deceiving it was to me. Twice, we the people voted against same sex marriage and both times we won. Isn't anyone listening to us?

This bill does not protect churches, schools and businesses. Please, let the people vote on this bill.

Mahalo,

Winona Fuller
225 Kapalu St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Please, let the people vote on this bill.

Sent from my iPad

From: Tante Urban jr
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:44:27 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

For equality! All Humans deserve Equality.

Tante Urban jr
755711 Lamaokeola street
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: Melvin Hayase
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:37:10 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Even if the majority of the electorate upholds "traditional" marriage, it still does not make it right to limit marriage between a man and a woman. We know that from our experience with civil rights for racial equality.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Melvin Hayase
95-375 Ikaloa St
Mililani, HI 96789

From:	Kevin Rosinsky
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:34:39 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kevin Rosinsky
1219 Ala Alii St
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: Kaainanui Simon
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:33:26 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kaainanui Simon
1845 Kaikunane Loop
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: stintonrw@gmail.com on behalf of Rick Stinton
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Opposed to Same Sex Marriage Bill for reasons of Democracy
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:33:02 PM

I am opposed to the Legislature legalizing gay marriage at their Special Session because it does not honor government by democracy. The Special Session does not allow the time for citizens on both sides of the issue to present their cases. It does not allow for amendments. It appears to push through an agenda on a divisive social issue that will change the basic definition of the social unit of society, rather than allow the normal democratic process to work. To my knowledge, no other State in the Union is holding a Special Session on the issue. It is not necessary.

If the democratic process affirms gay marriage in Hawaii, then so be it. But the voice of the people should be heard and the issue fully vetted. The Special Session does not allow for that. Furthermore, the language of the Bill at points is problematic, and will lead to future law suits and problems. It needs more work and clarification, rather than being rushed through.

Personally, I believe that the people of Hawaii should vote on this issue. The Supreme Court has not ruled that gay marriage is a right, only that States who grant gay marriages must give equal benefits. So please do not participate in the deception that the Supreme Court has sanctioned gay marriage as a right. A person may hold this conviction, but this is the value of a democracy - issues should be discussed, debated, and voted on.

I urge you to hear the people of Hawaii. Do not legalize gay marriage at the Special Session.

Yours truly,

Rick Stinton
733 Mokapu Road, Kailua
808-225-6941

From: Val
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: opposition to the gay marriage bill
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:32:22 PM

Testimony **opposing** the gay marriage bill.

I am opposed to the gay marriage bill. This issue is so divisive that our legislators should let the people of this State decide via a vote in 2014.

The main reason I oppose this bill is that I feel the LGBT community should be taking their fight to the US House of Representatives. They say they want equality under the tax laws. They should lobby to have the Federal Tax Code changed so that the IRS will recognize civil unions and allow those couples to file jointly on their Federal Tax Returns so that they may receive the same tax benefits that heterosexual couples receive. If the tax codes change, there's no reason for "marriage", since by their own admission, the reason they want marriage is to enjoy the same economic benefits that heterosexual couples receive; to be treated equally. Their efforts to change the marriage laws in 50 States create contention, discord and divide communities.

Secondly, they were given civil unions/ domestic partnerships. Even though there is no constitutional "right to marry", they clamor for the "right" to marry. If they achieve that goal, they will continue with their agenda of making the homosexual lifestyle as accepting as the heterosexual lifestyle. They will move to press this agenda by demanding changes to school curriculum. They'll be asking for equal lifestyle coverage in sex education text books. Research of those states that were the first to allow gay marriage finds that many schools are doing just that. They have been many court challenges in these schools. Is this what we want for our State?

Thirdly, saying they should be able to marry whom they love, they are really saying that they want society to validate and affirm their lifestyle and choice of sexual partner.

Lastly, to elevate civil unions to the status of sacramental marriage is an insult to religious tradition and the institution of marriage. Marriage of homosexuals is a sterile relationship; a mockery of an ancient institution that has served mankind for the propagation of the human race.

To pass a gay marriage bill without putting it to a vote by the people is underhanded.

Let the people decide; put it on the ballot in 2014.

Thank you,

Valerie Pedro

From: gagan brar
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:32:03 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

gagan brar
1219 ala alii street
honolulu, HI 96818

From: Lester Noa
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:30:29 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lester Noa
1219 Ala Alii St APT 102
honolulu, HI 96818

From:	Steven Oyakawa
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:30:05 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Steven Oyakawa
2421 Ala Wai Blvd
Apt 606
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Val
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: testimony opposed to the gay marriage bill
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:27:46 PM

I am opposed to the gay marriage bill.

I find it outrageous that gay rights groups from outside of our State are lobbying our representatives and senators to pass a gay marriage bill. These people, according to the Honolulu Star Advertiser, have spent thousands of dollars to try to sway our local representatives and senators.

This bill would affect ***ALL*** the people of Hawaii. Why are we catering to a small group of people. They ARE NOT being discriminated against. They hold jobs, eat at restaurants, shop where ever they want, go to the movies, travel, rent and buy houses, go to the church of their choice, chose whatever medical they want, etc. Since there is no constitutional right to marry, there is no discrimination.

The Supreme Court ruled that same sex couples were being discriminated against by the ***Federal government***. The lesbian and gay community need to stop fighting for marriage in the States. They need to take their fight to the Federal government via the U.S. Congress; get the Federal Tax Codes changed to recognize civil unions. Stop dividing communities.

Since our governor is so sympathetic to their economic situation, he should write and submit a bill to our representatives in Washington, D.C. on their behalf, to change the Tax Code so that Civil Union partners can file jointly on their Federal Tax Return.

In 1998, the people decided. If that constitutional amendment accorded the Legislature the right to **"redefine marriage"** as necessary, then the amendment on the ballot must have purposely been written to mislead the people.

Do not be disingenuous. Let the people decide if the legislature has the right to redefine marriage. Take this issue to the polls again. This time be very clear and offer two options:

1: ***"the legislature again defines that marriage is between one man and one woman. This definition may not be changed except through constitutional amendment."***
2: "the legislature redefines marriage as being between two individuals of the opposite sex OR of the same sex, who are not related to each other by blood or half-blood."

Thank you,

Valerie Pedro

From: Travis Munguia
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:27:28 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Travis Munguia
Box 29C
1852 Clay Hall
Hickam AFB, HI 96853

From: tyler Cole
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:25:58 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

tyler Cole
648 bishop pt JBPHH
pearl harbor, HI 96860

From: Derek F Cabarloc
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Oppose Bill SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:25:56 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

The current proposed bill is not adequate to protect religion.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousands of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Marleen I Cabarloc
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Thomas Hall
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:25:20 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thomas Hall
2205 Aulii St
Honolulu, HI 96817

From:	Duval Harris Jr.
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:25:10 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Duval Harris Jr.
1316 Loko Dr.
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From:	Brandon Wong
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:24:37 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

The ramifications of passing this bill will be far reaching, further deteriorating society marriage and the family. The GDP and tax base will be affected by giving non-traditional marriage tax exemptions that were reserved for traditionally married couples; and a decrease in births. Religious institutions will be affected and not protected if this bill passes. How are we to practice our religious freedom if we are restricted by laws? This bill needs to be examined carefully and objectively and not rushed because of the unknown full effects on society and family.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

A very concerned wife, mother, taxpayer, citizen, and constituent,

Stacy Wong
Honolulu, HI, 96813

From: michael du
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:24:32 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

michael du
718 10th ave.
honolulu, HI 96816

From: brian libunao
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:22:38 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

brian libunao
718 10th ave
honolulu, HI 96816

From: P. Charlene Matsuzaki
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:22:22 PM

Perrine Matsuzaki

1720 Huna Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair

The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

1. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.

2. It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.

3. It denies the most core institution of society, marriage between a born-man and a born-woman.

4. It fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits.

5. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits.

6. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members from lawsuits.

7. It trashes Native Hawaiian ethnicity by extending the parentage rights that would transfer Native Hawaiian ethnicity to non-Native Hawaiian individuals.

8. It will tax Hawaii taxpayers with costs for divorce, annulment and separation proceedings of same-sex couples married in the State, but who do not live in Hawaii returning to Hawaii courts to do those proceedings.

9. It will debilitate our children and youth with new educational curriculum for K-12 grades that will present same-sex marriages and relationships to schools.

10. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language “reserve marriage” indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively.

11. It does not give sufficient time for the State of Hawaii to change processes, policies and practices to abide by the new law and puts the State at risk for lawsuits because it will not be able to comply with the new law because of its effective date of November 18, 2013.

12. It does not offer Neighbor Island individuals the opportunity to present testimony in person because of its process is fast-tracked.

13. It will not be referred to other appropriate legislative committees who are responsible to the citizens of Hawaii to vet legislation. It should be referred to the following committees: Hawaiian Affairs, Tourism and Hawaiian

Affairs, Human Services, Finance. Education and Consumer Protection and Commerce. Citizens and stakeholders will not be able to testify in these committees to inform lawmakers about the far-reaching societal, economic and operational impact of the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

14. It does not provide a way to finance implementation costs to the State nor individual counties.

15. It excludes other types of couples (ie. related individuals) from legal marriage while granting certain rights and benefits that are presently only available to married couples to them. These couples will have legal standing to challenge the law.

16. It disintegrates the core unit of our society namely the family defined with a father, a mother and their children.

17. It corrupts the individual's thoughts and actions.

18. It putrefies our society to its downfall.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

signature upon request

Perrine Matsuzaki

Hawaii Voter

From: Derek F Cabarloc
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Opposition to Bill SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:22:10 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

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I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Derek F Cabarloc
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Ceitte Smith
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:20:19 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ceitte Smith
431 Nahua St
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Michael O"Shaughnessy
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Cc: Michael O"Shaughnessy; Kanai
Subject: Written Testimony Against Same Sex Marriage Law - NOT GOOD POLITICS!
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:20:14 PM

"Marriage" between a Man and a Women is the basis of God's fundamental unit of a "Family". To change "Marriage" to any other definition is an abomination of God's Law (The Holy Bible) and the original Constitution from which this great Country was founded and blessed by God for following His Laws.

EIS (Environmental Studies) are accomplished to study the affects of major changes to our Communities. Has the Hawaiian Legislature accomplished and EIS on the long term affects on our future generations which this major legal shift in the definition of a Traditional Family will cause? This Law will force teachers to teach a new Non-Traditionally Family believe system to our Children in our Hawaiian Public School System at a very young age. It will impede on our rights to speak freely of faith on our streets or inside our Churches. Has the Hawaiian Legislator or our Governor even considered the negative affects of the Same Sex Law presently in Massachusetts, Canada and Europe, where parents no longer have the rights to opt out their own children from school when Public Schools teach against the Traditional Family? Where people and Pastors, Priest and Rabbis are arrested for speaking of their faith, once protected by the First Amendment, but now is a "hate crime"? Where tax payers, consumers and business will be forced to subsidize homosexual relationships? Where freedom of conscience and religious liberties are threaten? Where there once was a Democracy and now a Dictatorial State of the few???

I, and many others do NOT hate gays and lesbian. This is a matter of my FAITH and standing up for Traditional Marriage which is good, healthy and normal in our State and Country for generations. Has anything bad has ever come from Traditional Marriages? Absolutely not! Traditional Marriage is sound and true!

If this is legalized, WHERE DOES THIS STOP?! The flood gates will flow to whomever minority who also wants their "rights", "what is fair for me" and "it is because of love I should be granted this". Why should we denied their rights of these other minorities, all of them? Immoral, unhealthy, why should it matter? Then cries to eliminate Marriage and the Traditional Family altogether. You bet! Then what is our Country really founded on? Absolutely nothing that was once good, wholesome, holy and sacred! We will fall for anything.

Hawaii already has a law for the rights of same sex unions! To Legalize a Same Sex Law is now going too far! THIS LAW WILL BE AGAINST THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII AS WE VOTED IN PRINCIPLE AGAINST IN 1998! This law will go against the majority of Hawaiians rights and will! A case of a small minority rights overruling the majority because of powerful

special interest groups. A case where the minority will impose a law over the majority of the traditional values and believes of what makes Hawaii great; the Traditional Family. NOT GOOD POLITICS! And not good for the majority of Hawaiians who want a REAL Democracy!

If there is any doubt that I am NOT speaking for the majority of the views of Hawaiians, any doubt at all, THEN LET THE PEOPLE'S VOTE AND INDIVIDUAL VOICE DECIDE; NOT A SPECIAL INTEREST SESSION OF A FEW TO OVERCOME THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII ON SUCH A SENSITIVE AND FUNDIMENTAL ISSUE AS THIS!

Thank you, and may God Bless YOU for standing for principle for the Hawaiian Traditional Family!

Respectfully,

Michael O'Shaughnessy
(A Concerned Citizen)

From: P. Charlene Matsuzaki
To: _JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly@capitol.hawaii.gov; JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:20:13 PM

Perrine Matsuzaki

1720 Huna Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair

The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

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1. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.

2. It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.

3. It denies the most core institution of society, marriage between a born-man and a born-woman.

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16. It disintegrates the core unit of our society namely the family defined with a father, a mother and their children.

17. It corrupts the individual's thoughts and actions.

18. It putrefies our society to its downfall.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Perrine Matsuzaki

Hawaii Voter

From: Brandon Wong
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:19:56 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

The ramifications of passing this bill will be far reaching, further deteriorating society marriage and the family. The GDP and tax base will be affected by giving non-traditional marriage tax exemptions that were reserved for traditionally married couples; and a decrease in births. Religious institutions will be affected and not protected if this bill passes. How are we to practice our religious freedom if we are restricted by laws? This bill needs to be examined carefully and objectively and not rushed because of the unknown full effects on society and family.

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A very concerned husband, father, taxpayer, citizen, and constituent,

Brandon Wong
Honolulu, HI, 96813

From: Daniel Nicolosi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:12:45 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equalitdaniely for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Daniel Nicolosi
1653 Mott-Smith Dr #D
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: andre riveraruiz
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:11:38 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

andre riveraruiz
166f lakeview circle
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From: peili lin
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Opposition to SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:11:16 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

The bill as it is written is defective and I am opposed to it becoming law.
It is not written in a way that can withstand the muster of a court challenge.
For example, there is no provision for same sex divorce.
No provision as to child custody when both parents are not biological parents.
No provision for property settlement.
Religious protection clause is superseded by the public accommodations law. Therefore the state is dictating what religious institution can and cannot do. This is a violation of the 1st Amendment, which states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This bill prohibits the free exercise of the churches.

I am asking that this bill be shelved until these issues can be resolved, clarified and discussed during the regular session of the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Peili Lin
1336 Laukahi St.
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: peili lin
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Opposition to SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:10:53 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

The bill as it is written is flawed and defective and I am opposed to it becoming law.

It is not written in a way that can withstand the muster of a court challenge.
For example, there is no provision for same sex divorce.
No provision as to child custody when both parents are not biological parents.
No provision for property settlement.

Religious protection clause is superseded by the public accommodations law. Therefore the state is dictating what religious institution can and cannot do. This is a clear violation of the 1st Amendment, which states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This bill prohibits the free exercise of the churches not to perform same sex marriages.

I am asking that this bill be shelved until these issues can be resolved, clarified and discussed during the regular session of the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Peili Lin
1336 Laukahi St.
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: dale mckinney
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:09:21 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

dale mckinney
251 kaalawai place
honolulu, HI 96816

From: Matt Meko
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:04:29 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Seriously, it's a new world and I hope Hawai'i joins it.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Good luck.

Matt Meko
3175 E. Manoa Rd.
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: David Pham-Martinez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:04:11 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

David Pham-Martinez
1303 Liliha St APT 206
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Paul Figueroa
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:01:44 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Paul Figueroa
1303 Liliha ST
APT 206
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Kekoa Ahkoi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Marriage Equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:01:17 PM

Aloha Members,

My name is Kekoa Nakooka-Akoi and I am an openly Gay young adult born and raised in Maui. I support Gay Marriage because I believe that there should be no restrictions on LOVE every Man or Women should decide their own destiny, As a Gay Native Hawaiian I humbly ask for your support and join me in legalizing gay marriage here in Hawaii.

Ke aloha pumehana,
Kekoa Nakooka-akoi

From:	Spencer Tsui
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Cc:	Spencer Tsui
Subject:	STRONG OPPOSITION OF BILL SB1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:52:30 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Spencer Tsui

816 Koko Isle Circle,
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

(808)255-2238

From:	Tereiti Grace
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Opposition to Senate Bill 1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:44:34 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is **Weathirly Grace** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Weathirly Grace

From: Brandi Wong
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Written testimony OPPOSING Bill SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:42:12 PM

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage. This senate bill is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively. I also oppose the legislation because the legislation's effective date of November 18, 2013 does not give sufficient time for the State of Hawaii to change processes, policies and practices to abide by the new law and puts the State at risk for lawsuits because it will not be able to comply with the new law. It will not be referred to other appropriate legislative committees who are responsible to the citizens of Hawaii to vet legislation. It should be referred to the following committees: Hawaiian Affairs, Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs, Human Services, Finance, Education and Consumer Protection and Commerce. Citizens and stakeholders will not be able to testify in these committees to inform lawmakers about the far-reaching societal, economic and operational impact of the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Brandi Wong
3241-A Pawaina Place
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Tuvili Tuisavura
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Gay marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:39:26 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is **Viliame Tuisavura** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Viliame Tuisavura
Sent from my iPhone

From: Lois
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Written Testimony regarding SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights on 10.28.13 @10:30a
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:39:00 PM

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Honored Senators and Representatives,
Unfortunately, I am working today and can't testify in person. Therefore am sending you my heartfelt wishes regarding SB1.
I am deeply concerned for Hawaii's economic, academic and social future should SB 1 bill pass and ask that you vote NO on SB1.
Up until July 2013 our Dept of Health has issued approximately 900 Civil Union licenses in state of 1.4 million people. I don't understand the urgency for this Special Session and besides doesn't Civil Union offer sufficient benefits for gay couples?
This is not a crisis, yet it's made to appear so? Why? A five day session is not enough time to vet the bill and perhaps a constitutional amendment would better address this controversial issue. Let's take our time to objectively examine this bill and ultimately LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE.
I am also concerned regarding the language of the bill which, contrary to what the Governor says, affects the first ammendment rights of religious organizations as well as businesses. Please take time to study the "exemption" portion of the bill.
Having read thru documents from states where Same Sex Marriage is legal, I have concluded that SSM is not healthy for Hawaii and keeping marriage between one man and one woman is. Our ohana must be perpetuated as it is naturally designed.
Abraham Lincoln said: "Nothing is politically right, which is morally wrong". I pray we don't find ourselves saying this at the close of Session.
I urge you to please vote NO on SB 1 and propose to LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE.
Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono

Sincerely,
Lois J Young

--

Follow Me...
2069 California Ave 19E
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From: Kristen Kirnbauer
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:30:33 PM

I am opposed to same sex marriage, as Ii feel many people in Hawaii are. Please allow the people to make this important decision on what they value by way of a public ballot.

Thank You,

Ted Kirnbauer

From: blossommeyers@gmail.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:30:02 PM

I OPPOSE this special session on Gay Marriage in THE STATE OF HAWAII. " UA MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KA PONO O HAWAII" I STAND FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, & I PRAY THAT YOU LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON THIS & NOT SEE THIS BILL THROUGH! if this bill pass, this state will be destructed.

MAHALO

Sent from Windows Mail

From: blossommeyers@gmail.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: I truly Believe that marriage is between a man & a woman, I Strongly oppose same sex marriage here in HAWAII! Let the people of Hawaii take a VOTE on this Bill. If this bill passes through this special session, I guarantee ther will be sudden destruction
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:23:27 PM

Sent from Windows Mail

From: a.starr
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: I support marriage equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:14:44 PM

I am a mother of 3, an RN, and I support marriage equality. Please know that almost everyone I know feels the same way.

Respectfully,

Adina Ingram RN, BSN

From: Susan Kunz
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:11:28 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is **Susan Kunz** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I understand that Governor Abercrombie chose to use my hard earned tax dollars to call an unnecessary session. I understand that our current marriage and civil union laws are not in conflict with federal law. I understand that we are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars for less than 2000 people who have taken advantage of the legal civil union law. I understand that the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, a purely political group, will have the power to determine how I practice my religion if this bill passes.

I oppose this bill. There is no purpose to it other than to force societal change at the cost of our religious freedoms. I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because I believe that government is there to give us structure that allows us the freedom to make choices. This bill unconstitutionally forces each citizen -- regardless of their stance on this bill or their view on marriage to submit to the dictates of the government rather than their own conscience.

I oppose this bill because it does not protect the individual or the small business which is the backbone of our economy.
I oppose this bill because I believe that society is most stable when marriage is between between a man and a woman
I am against Senate Bill 1. Do not pass this bill into law.

Thank you,

Susan Kunz

From: Steve Hoag
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Opposition to SD 1 - Support for Religious Exemptions - Same Sex Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:57:58 PM

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing: Monday, Oct. 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

****

Aloha Committee Members. I am writing on behalf of my family of six in support of adequate exemptions for churches and clergy in legislation to enact same-sex marriage in Hawaii.

While we are not in favor of redefining marriage -- and oppose such -- if such legislation is passed we ask that religious organizations and officials not be required to support or perform same-sex marriages, or to host same-sex marriages or celebrations in their facilities as public accommodations. Especially where clergy or the church is not receiving payment for services.

As a former bishop of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I have performed marriages for both members and non-members of our faith without payment, as required by our church. The reason our bishops sometimes perform marriages for those not of our faith is so that their martial status with their partner will not disqualify them to be baptized into the faith.

Thus, even marriages performed for non-church members are often for religious purposes as an exercise of First Amendment freedom of religion rights. These rights should likewise be protected under state law in any new marriage legislation.

Further, this bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever alter thousand of years of culture, customs, and society.

We therefore oppose this bill. However, if you decide to move this bill forward we respectfully request that it be amended to include stronger religious exemptions.

Thank you,

Steve & Heather Hoag
P.O. Box 25
Laie, Hawaii 96762

From: jan Tiffany
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:57:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

jan Tiffany
601 kaimalino st
kailua, HI 96734

From: Arlene Larrua
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: OPPOSED: Marriage Equality Bill
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:57:25 PM

Dear Committee,
My name is Arlene K Larrua. I am a registered voter in District 7.
I am of Hawaiian Ancestry and Native Cherokee Indian.
I am testifying in writing today that I am strongly OPPOSED to the Marriage Equality Bill being heard in the Special Session called by our Governor Abercrombie.
As the leader of Hawaii Women of Purpose a network of 15,000 women of all ages represented across the islands whose mission and purpose is to inspire, educate, connect, honor and act to end domestic violence against women, I submit the following testimony.

The reasons I am OPPOSED are as follows:

- This Bill should have been presented in the regular session of the House/Senate. It is a waste of our taxpayers money to hold this special session. The $4 million plus dollars spent on this act, could have been spent in air-conditioning for some of Hawaii's hottest schools.
- What is the rush? Again I say, What is the rush? In all of history throughout the nation, it has taken a minimum of 2 years of legislation to hear, allow testimony, allow all committees to hold testimony, and then a decision was reached. Why in Hawaii do we want to allow the Governor to change thousands of years of culture, Ohana, and standards of living for all in five (5)days or at the most ten (10 days). The process is wrong, and absolutely ridiculous.
- The bill does contain wording to allow public accommodations first amendment rights.
- The bill encroaches upon the religious freedom also allowed in the first amendment. There is not enough language to protect, churches, clergy and the religious freedoms provided to it's people.
- Legislators have NOT discussed this bill. This bill was not heard last year, nor the years before. The last time Same Sex Marriage was discussed was in 1998.
- Most current legislators were NOT in office when the Legislature discussed Same Sex Marriage.
- Committee Chairs WILL limit testimony.
- Members will not have the same opportunities to ask questions if the bill is referred to a single joint committee. JUD/FIN vs, JUD, FIN as with the Civil Union Bill.
- Senate President Donna Kim DID NOT agree to a special session.
- Speaker Joseph Souki also DID NOT agree.
- If the Special Session is only 5 days long the bill CANNOT BE AMENDED.
- The committee requires at least ONE (1) public hearing in the HOUSE and ONE (1) in the Senate. But this bill really should have more.
- Hawaii's Legislature will be the first elected body in the WORLD to enact Same-Sex Marriage overnight and forever obliterate thousands of years of culture, customs and traditions.
- Hawaii's indigenous values of Laulima, Lokahi and Ahonui means we are NOT the Mainland.
- Same sex couples can already gain Federal Benefits by traveling to another State that has legalized SSM and bring back those benefits to Hawaii.
- By Rushing Same Sex Marriage through in this Special Session the STATE WILL OPEN PANDORA'S BOX.

- When the Supreme Court struck down the biblical definition of marriage in June (DOMA) the minority opinion in the case, written by Justice Antonin Scalia, said the decision in effect deemed those not in favor of gay marriage as "enemies of mankind". This act/bill/law would bring more division, conflict, hostility and chaotic behavior rather than peaceful co-existence.
- Historically, Rep. Gohmert said there have been dire consequences for nations with rampant homosexuality. He specifically mentioned that happening in the military of ancient Greece before that country's fall. "It's one of the mile markers that great civilizations or great empires pass on the way to the dustbin of history."
- This bill does not protect the right of parents or children who will be influenced in schools as to the GLBT influence that will be introduced through guise of "safety" to infiltrating of this lifestyle as normal and acceptable.
- It outright contradicts our First amendment right which says, ***Amendment I***

  Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

In closing, may I bring to your attention the plight of motherhood. A mother's joys and dreams are birthed with each child brings into this world. She dreams of that child fulfilling their purpose and destiny. When told by this child that he/she chooses an alternative lifestyle, she does not immediately jump up and down, shout for joy or celebrate the decision by her child that she knows will harm them physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. However, after processing the disappoint, hurt, and anger through much time and much thought, she chooses to love that same child, in their own choices, accepting them in their choice as the new normal for the sake of the relationship. Take a minute and think about it.

Sincerely,
Arlene K. Larrua
Waikoloa, Hawaii

From: joshua gutierrez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:57:00 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

joshua gutierrez
1825 east west rd
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Staci Kronberg
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:56:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Staci Kronberg
601 Kaimalino
kailua, HI 96734

From: Rebeca Martinez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:54:50 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

My name is Rebeca Martinez. My partner and I have been together for almost 13 years. We have two young daughters who always ask when we will get married. I want to be able to protect my family by getting married to the woman that I love. Although we marry for love, what is also important are the numerous legal benefits that come with marriage. Please help bring marriage equality to Hawaii.

Rebeca Martinez
130 Uuku Street
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From: Mathew Bellhouse-King
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:51:13 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mathew Bellhouse-King
1630 Makiki St
Unit B-301
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Ualani Mo"o
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: OPPOSED to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:26:45 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Ualani Mo'o Nagy and I am a resident of Laie. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I am a long time resident of Laie and have lived here for over 35 years. I have four children who were raised and still being raised here. I love my life and living here in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act**. Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Spencer Tainui Temanaha Nagy

From:	Ualani Mo"o Nagy
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	OPPOSED to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:24:22 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Ualani Mo'o Nagy and I am a resident of Laie. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I am a long time resident of Laie and have lived here for over 35 years. I have four children who were raised and still being raised here. I love my life and living here in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act**. Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Ualani Mo'o Nagy

From: Fredrene Balanay
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:20:35 AM

Fredrene K.L.M. Balanay

94-054 Leolua Street #106

Waipahu, HI 96797

October 23, 2013

Sen. Clayton Hee

JDL Committee Chair

Hawaii State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street Room 407

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair and Committee:

I am writing in regards to SB 1 relating to Equal Rights; in recognition of same sex marriage. First and foremost I oppose to SB1 in its present form and literature.

There has been a growing concern amongst others like myself regarding the religious exemptions and/or requirements of this bill. It appears to force the use of religious facilities their adjoining affiliates or entities regardless of that said entities religious practices or stand point. I will not lecture you on the importance of maintaining religious freedom as a basic right of every citizen in this country since its birth and inception. Rather I would like to simply ask this question. If this is a bill set to ensure equal rights why would it implicate the removal of one right to ensure another?

Should the religious rights of ALL people everywhere come into question based on something such as the right to marry? I humbly ask your consideration on this matter. The question isn't whether I believe marriage should be preserved between opposite sexes but rather should this issue be part of the cause that may weaken the fabric of our American freedoms and lifestyles.

In other states similar laws have been passed preserving both the right to marry and in the same token the right to continue to practice our sets of religious beliefs as such. Despite my LDS upbringing, and Christian values, I do understand and even sympathize with my gay and lesbian brothers and sisters. I will not argue the definition of marriage according to the state but I will plead for the preservation of my right to practice my religion as I have always done.

I am strong in my faith and know that no matter the legal definition of marriage, I will continue to follow and adhere to my beliefs regarding such. I do not undermine your

authority or the capability of your sound judgment. Just please readdress this growing and grave concern.

Sincerely,

Fredrene K.L.M. Balanay

From: Kevin Pope
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB 1 Same Sex Marriage-No
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:18:38 AM

To the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,
Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chair,
Honorable Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair,

We are very much opposed to the changes the proposed same-sex marriage bill, SB -1 that is going to be considered in the upcoming special session. We have read the bill and are very concerned that it will be the start of the erosion of our 1st and 4th amendment rights. Please don't put Hawaii on the slippery slope towards making religion and free speech hate crimes. We don't hate anyone. We just believe their lifestyle choice is morally and biblically wrong. As Christians we are taught to love our neighbor as ourselves.

The institution of marriage is a tradition that is centuries old, and it has always been between one man and one woman. Why change it now? Marriage equality? What's next, marriage equality for polygamists? Please forgive our being blunt, but our feelings on this subject are very strong. We believe that there are already adequate protections in place for same-sex unions, both in Hawaii and in the federal government. Do you want our children to be taught that same-sex unions are a normal and acceptable part of life? It now being done in other states that have passed this so-called "Marriage Equality" law, or some version of it.

Aside from the biblical argument, same sex "sex" is just physically unnatural. Whether you believe in creation or evolution, mens & womens bodies are physically built to come together, not men & men, not women & women.

In 1998, the people voted to ban same sex marriage, and though I was not yet a citizen of this state (I was on active duty in the Navy stationed here) I whole-heartly agreed with the ban. We believe the people of Hawaii still very much support the ban, and do not personally know anyone who is for its repeal or change.

We don't believe the changes in this proposed law has been anywhere near adequately discussed, not by the legislature, nor by the citizens of Hawaii. I urge you to vote No, so the state can get adequate public discussion and opinion on the subject.

My family & I appreciate the work you do for Hawaii. We know that your committee has our best interests in mind, and we strongly urge you to vote No on this bill.

Very Respectfully,

Kevin & Michele Pope

95-716 Kelewaa St

Mililani, HI 96789

From: Alison Rowland-Ciszek
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:16:02 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I support marriage rights for all adults. I see no reason for any grown persons to be prohibited from marrying the person they love. Those opposed to equal rights in marriage for all Americans have made no logical, compelling argument to support their views.

Has anyone been able to make an argument against same-sex marriage that is not faith-based? "Because I think my religion says it's wrong" is not a valid legal argument against ANYTHING. We have a separation of church and state in this country, and for good reason. You, the lawmakers of Hawai'i need to stand up for the civil rights of the people of Hawai'i—all of them.

I'd like to point out that this same lobbying group were the ones who pushed for a ballot measure that put the decision in the hands of the legislature. Why do they now wish to go back on that decision?

With Aloha to all, I say that Hawaii should have been at the forefront of the civil and human rights wave that some states have already ridden. I'm deeply disappointed that we were not the first, but now is a good time to jump in! I will be proud of Hawai'i when we reverse the mistake of 16 years ago and all adults in Hawai'i may marry the person they love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Alison Rowland-Ciszek
524 Auwina Street
Kailua, HI 96734

From: Michael O"Shaughnessy
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Cc: Michael O"Shaughnessy; Kanai
Subject: Written Testimony Against Same Sex Marriage Law
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:04:46 AM

Dear Mr. Governor and Legislature,

I'm a senior citizen who is heart-broken over this issue. My heart breaks for my grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Same Sex Marriage is not a marriage blessed by God, it is a life-style birth out of sinful desires. God will not allow any nation to continue on this destructive path very long.

Governor Abercrombie and Legislature, remember this, one day you will stand before God and give an answer to your stance on this very important issue. I pray to God He will find you not guilty! I urge you very strongly to say "No" to Same Sex Marriage and let the people of Hawaii decide and vote on this.

Mahalo

Sina Owens

From: Jesse Arthur
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:04:18 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jesse Arthur
11-3192 palainui st.
Mt. View, HI 96720

From: Sharon Toyomura
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony is Opposition o SB 1 Relating to Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:01:59 AM

98-458 Hoomailani St.
Pearl City, HI 96782
(808) 456-8198

October 27, 2013

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Hearing on Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Same-sex marriage will produce marriage inequality rather than marriage equality. As currently defined, all citizens may marry a member of the opposite sex regardless of race, age, economic status, religion or gender preference. No one is left out. However, as soon as same-sex proponents are allowed to redefine marriage to allow themselves to gain the legal status of marriage with all of its benefits, other minority groups, such as polygamists, will want the right to marry as well. Indeed, it is already happening.

Ours is a government of the people, by the people and for the people. Certainly this means the majority of people, not one vocal and politically powerful interest group. Marriage has benefits, but it also has responsibilities. Perhaps the most important function of marriage is to produce and raise children, and to teach them what it means to be a man or a woman. A father is cannot fulfill the role of a mother, nor can a mother fulfill the role of a father. All children have a biological mother and father. They have a desire to know their parents. To know one's parents and to be loved and raised by them is the best possible outcome.

Same-sex marriage will have a detrimental effect on our children and our society in general. Please do not attempt to redefine marriage. Leave this decision to the citizens of this state if not the country as a whole. It is going to impact everyone in myriad ways, so let everyone have a say.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Toyomura

From: Kapahu Kaulahao
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:59:32 AM

Testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 1

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the adverse impact of unintended consequences it would have on the families and societal order of Hawaii. The same rationale, "equality," could be applied to any other abnormal sexual unions, even criminal ones, as legal "marriage."

Secondly, the 1998 constitutional amendment vote precludes the legislature from redefining marriage. The language of the amendment specifically constrains the legislature to hold that marriage in Hawaii is only legal between opposite sex couples. To redefine it as anything else would be a violation of the state constitution. To legalize "same-sex marriage" would be an illegal act.

Sincerely,
Kapahu Kaulahao

From: Jeffrey Hong
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1 - Provides for Immigration Fairness - Strong Support
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:43:14 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I strongly support SB 1. It allows Hawaii citizens access to immigration benefits that would otherwise force unnecessary burden on our citizens as they seek relief in other jurisdictions.

In my case, I met my partner Jason Alcock in November 2002 while on vacation in Sydney. We met through mutual friends at a party thrown to welcome the out-of-town visitors. Our relationship blossomed, I was lucky that as a technology employee I had flexibility to work remotely and build a long distance relationship. After two extended passports, packed with 11 years of stamps, Jason is currently living in Hawaii as the Director of the Louis Vuitton Store at Ala Moana.

We had signed up as reciprocal beneficiaries and augmented it by completing our estate planning. We did not take advantage of entering into a Civil Union as it lacked a critical legal component; the ability for me to bring Jason into the US as my spouse.

Jason's employer has sponsored his US work visa. If anything happened with his employment he would need to return to Australia. We had to create "Plan B" for leaving Hawaii in case he could not stay permanently. I am in the process of obtaining permanent residency in Australia. Australia will grant me this immigration status based on our de facto marriage.

The recent DOMA decision eliminates the need for "Plan B". Jason and I will marry in the US soon. As part of a family spanning five generations in Hawaii I would love to have our wedding here. Marriage will allow us to ensure that Jason can choose to remain in Hawaii regardless of his employment status.

The tragedy of failing to pass this legislation is that we will be forced to fly to California to seek legal refuge for benefits our home State of Hawaii is denying,

Why should the State of Hawaii place this additional burden on members of our island community?

Please vote to make Hawaii a welcoming place for all of our citizens.

Mahalo

Jeff Hong
Chief Technology Officer
Techmana LLC

Jeffrey Hong
700 Richards

Honolulu, HI 96813

From: spiritwarrior@hawaii.rr.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Bill #SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:41:43 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Bill #SB1

Hearing: Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium of the State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

My name is Gail Sumner. I will not be present to testify in person.

I would like to offer my opposition to SB1, Relating to Equal Rights.

These are some of the reasons I say NO to same sex marriage.
1. I believe a family needs a father and mother role model for the children. Fathers have distinct male attributes like being a leader and provider that boys and girls need and mothers have unique qualities like sensitivity, compassion that both male and female child need to be well balanced in life.
2. Homosexuality is unnatural for procreation. What will happen to mankind if majority of the population decided to marry the same sex?
3. Marriage between one man and one woman is a moral issue. Marriage between one man and one woman sets boundaries that protect each person in the family. It establishes sexual guardrails which are a requirement for successful societies. A man and wife committed for a lifetime was the perfect plan from the beginning of time. Children were to be loved and protected.
Sex was God's idea for consummating a marriage and joining a man to a wife as one. Incest, rape, sex with animals or sex with the same gender were taboo. Why? Because it was perversion and destructive. Societies are weakened without moral standards.

4. Traditional marriage, a union between one man and one woman is the cornerstone of society. Family is the fundamental building block of all human Civilizations. For thousands of years traditional marriage has proved to keep civilization healthy and alive. There is no public need for same-sex families.
Same sex marriage meets a personal desire of a few adults, not society as a whole.
The gay agenda will force acceptance and normalization of homosexuality on everyone.
5. Redefining marriage will violate parent's rights to teach their children that a man and a woman are different and both are necessary for marriage and for children. Based on recent events, state law and public school education will accuse traditional marriage as old fashion and narrow minded.
6. Redefining marriage in law means that religious freedoms are threatened because the state must promote and uphold the new definition of marriage.
Parents will lose the right to disagree from gay material taught at school or activities that conflict with their belief and values.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments.
In closing, I oppose gay marriage because homosexuality is a sin. Sin will corrupt and result in sorrow and confusion. Jesus came to give life and life abundantly. It will be foolish to redefine marriage. It is wise to protect traditional marriage. Please oppose Bill #SB1.

Gail Sumner
94-804 Lumi Pl

Waipahu, Hi. 96797

From: Rob and Suzi Daley
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Re: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:41:02 AM

Dear Governor Abercrombie,

As a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of the State of Hawaii, I am requesting that you cancel the scheduled Special Session that you have recently called.

You do not have legislative approval to convene this meeting, and have not yet been able to established yourself as a dictator.

As far as I know, this is still a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

This same-sex issue is not new, nor is it imperative to spend this type of money and energy, to push a 'special interest' notion, that has already been voted on, onto the majority of the people that have already said NO!, we do not want this.

The declaration that this legislation will have no effect on clergy and churches is an outright lie, and you already know this. If you and your colleagues are so sure that this is what the people want, then put it to a vote.

But you already know that it would fail, isn't that right? And that is the reason for all of this maneuvering, to actually by-pass the people.

The regular Legislative Session is due to convene in two months – wait until then to present this cloaked foist.

None of the other 34 states that do not have this kind of legislation are rushing to the rail to push this kind of issue.

Due yourself, and your colleagues a big favor, CANCEL the session!

Respectfully,
Robert E. Daley

From:	Robbin Elaine
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	EQUAL RIGHTS for marriage- Senate Bill 1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:35:34 AM

Dear Public Servants,

This email communication is to ask you to stand for equal rights that are inalienable for each individual and included in the principle of Freedom.

I stand on written testimony in STRONG support of Senate Bill 1.

Warm Regards,
Robbin Elaine

From: Pamela Lichty
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:33:15 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a woman who's been married for 43 years to the same man, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. It's only right that our gay and lesbian friends in committed relationships have the same right to marry that we heterosexuals have. It's the right thing to do!

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this civil rights measure.

Pamela Lichty
4340 Pahoa Ave.
#20c
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Justin Mamuad
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Special session on same sex marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:30:27 AM

Justin No'eau Ka'upu Mamuad
PO BOX 62
Kualapu'u, HI 96757
808-567-6221
justin2091@gmail.com

Aloha. As a concerned native of the State of Hawai'i, I ask that you vote NO on SB1. The effects it will have on the state and mostly on our children will be "in the words of my kupuna' "not good." Moving from years and years of traditional marriage to a marriage that is unconstitutional, and unfitting in the eyes of God will be a disgrace not to only the people of hawaii, but to the nations around the world that sees Hawai'i or America in general to be a powerful nation of law-abiding and God-fearing citizens. If we are a nation and a people that says in "God we Trust", then we MUST abide by the laws of the God we trust in. God being against any type of homosexuality, In **1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.** I believe we should all share the same attributes as God has being the one that we trust in. Vote No for SB1. God Bless You,

Mahalo and Aloha,
Justin

From: jt@lwhilo.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: I oppose SB!
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:30:25 AM

Please do not pass this bill. It is like opening Pandora's Box.
If you must pass this bill with all of it's flaws, please consider adding the same 1st Amendment rights protections as the other states who have SSM laws.
i.e. Washington State:

ESSB 6239: CONCERNING CIVIL MARRIAGE AND DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS

*Prime Sponsor: Senator Murray (SHB 2516 Representative Pedersen) *Signed by the Governor*

- Marriage is a civil contract between two persons who are at least 18 years old and who are otherwise capable.
- **No regularly licensed or ordained minister or any priest, imam, rabbi, or similar official of any religious organization is required to solemnize or recognize any marriage.**
- **A religious organization must be immune from any civil claim or cause of action, including a claim pursuant to RCW 49.60, based on its refusal to provide accommodations, facilities, advantages, privileges, services, or goods related to the solemnization or celebration of a marriage.**
- Any state registered domestic partnership in which the parties are the same sex, where neither party is at least 62 years old, and that has not been dissolved or converted into a marriage by the parties by June 30, 2014, is automatically merged into a marriage as of June 30, 2014.
- The Secretary of State must send a letter to the mailing address on file of each same-sex state registered domestic partner notifying the person that the laws relating to state registered domestic partners will change in relation to certain same-sex registered domestic partners.

What's in the SB1 will not protect others rights.

Aloha,
John Trusdell
89 Maikai St.
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

From: CAROL K NAKATA
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: In OPPOSITION TO SB-1 on Same Sex Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:30:20 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

RE: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

BY: Darrel M. Sakamoto P. O. Box 1161/ 99-129 Uahi Street Aiea, Hi 96701

Dear Dear Honorable Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

This issue of same sex marriage is a recurrent one, which wastes taxpayer money by being debated repeatedly. Other important issues must also be addressed with our limited funds. Since marriage is an issue of great importance to Hawaii's people, WE should settle this issue once and for all with OUR votes, not yours. In fact, we already voted in 1998. The Legislators defy and disrespect us by trying to push this legislation through in a Special Session. Let US decide in true democratic fashion.

Also, I hope that legislators realize that by voting for this bill, they are automatically voting against traditional marriage, which most of us prefer and already voted for.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.
Darrel M. Sakamoto

From: Joanne Silva
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: On Same Sex Marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:22:30 AM

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Legislature:

I believe that this issue is far too important and needs more time for discussion than is being provided in this Special Session. The passing of this bill has the capacity to impact the foundation of our society and therefore warrants our undivided attention.

I therefore ask you to abstain from voting on the Marriage Equity Bill and to revisit the issue during regular session which will convene in a few shirt months beginning January of 2014.

Respectfully submitted by
Joanne L. Silva
35 Kapiolani St. #19
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
gardeniazito@hotmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: June Donaghy
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 5:59:56 AM

This is the testimony sent to Senator Lee and House Members Rhoads and Luke

TESTIMONY

Please vote NO on this same-sex marriage legislation relating to Equality.

Marriage is a covenant given to a man and woman by God. It is not a civil or equal right.

He made man and woman to come together and join as one flesh. This is not possible

with two members of the same sex. It is gift given by our creator not an equal right under a man made law.

Our rights are given to us by the God of the Universe.

May He give you His wisdom to make this decision wisely.

Our best wishes in your consideration of in this matter,

Joe & June Donaghy
1995 Paulele Place
Kihei, Maui, Hawaii. 96753

From: Debra Medeiros
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB 1 testimony.
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 2:20:19 AM

To The Committee on Judiciary and Labor
SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013
TIME: 10:30A.M.

My written testimony is **opposing** the SB 1 Bill (a.k.a. the gay marriage bill). I will not be testifying in person.
I am opposed to the gay marriage bill SB 1. Our legislators should let the people of this State decide via a vote in 2014, just like we did in 1998.

The reason I oppose this bill is that the LGBT community say they want equal rights under the tax laws. Therefore they should be taking their fight to the US Senate and House of Representatives, and lobby to have the Federal Tax Code changed so that the IRS will recognize civil unions and allow those couples to file jointly on their Federal Tax Returns. Then they can receive the same tax benefits that heterosexual couples receive. If the tax codes change, there is no reason for “marriage”, since by their own admission, the reason they want marriage is to enjoy the same economic benefits that heterosexual couples receive; to be treated equally. Their efforts to change the marriage laws in 50 States creates contention, discord and divided communities.

Since our governor is so sympathetic to the economic situation of the Gay and Lesbian community, he should write and submit a bill to our representatives in Washington, D.C. on their behalf, to change the Tax Code so that Civil Union and domestic partnerships can file jointly on their Federal Tax Return.

They were given civil unions/ domestic partnerships. Even though there is no constitutional “right to marry”, they clamor for the “right” to marry. If they achieve that goal, they will not stop, but will continue with their agenda of making the homosexual lifestyle as accepting as the heterosexual lifestyle. They will move to press this agenda by demanding changes to school curriculum like they have in the California, where it is illegal in your own home to teach your own children only about heterosexual lifestyles even if your religion does not believe in same sex partnerships. They will be demanding for equal lifestyle coverage in sex education. Research of the states that were the first to allow gay marriage finds that many schools are doing just that. In addition, many teachers are trying to be “politically correct” to the point of allowing posters reflecting the homosexual lifestyle while prohibiting posters of heterosexual lifestyles. They have been many court challenges in these schools. Is this what we want for the children of Hawaii, your children, your nieces and nephews, and grandchildren?

I find it outrageous that gay rights groups from outside of our State are lobbying our representatives and senators to pass a gay marriage bill. These people, according

to the Honolulu Star Advertiser, have spent thousands of dollars to try to sway our local representatives and senators.

This bill would affect ***ALL*** the people of Hawaii. Why are we catering to a small group of people. They ARE NOT being discriminated against. They hold jobs, eat at restaurants, shop where ever they want, go to the movies, travel, rent and buy houses, go to the church of their choice, choose whatever medical they want, etc. Since there is no constitutional right to marry, there is no discrimination.

The Supreme Court ruled that same sex couples were being discriminated against by the ***Federal government***. The lesbian and gay community need to stop fighting for marriage in the States. They need to take their fight to the Federal government via the U.S. Congress; get the Federal Tax Codes changed to recognize civil unions. Stop dividing communities.

In 1998, the people decided. If that constitutional amendment gave the Legislature the right to **"redefine marriage"** as necessary, then the amendment on the ballot must have purposely been written to mislead the people.

Let the people decide if the legislature has the right to redefine marriage. Take this issue to the polls again. This time be very clear and offer two options:

1: ***"the legislature again defines that marriage is between one man and one woman who are not related to each other by blood or half-blood. This definition may not be changed except through constitutional amendment."***

2: "the legislature redefines marriage as being between two individuals of the opposite sex OR of the same sex, who are not related to each other by blood or half-blood."

Saying they should be able to marry whom they love, they are really saying that they want society to validate and affirm their lifestyle and choice of sexual partner.

To elevate civil unions to the status of Sacramental Marriage is an insult to religious tradition and the institution of marriage. Marriage of homosexuals is a sterile relationship; a mockery of an ancient institution that has served mankind for the propagation of the human race.

To pass a gay marriage bill without putting it to a vote by the people is underhanded. Let the people decide; put it on the ballot in 2014.

Sincerely,

Debra Medeiros

From: a.gobelin@web.de
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Gay Marriage Hawaii
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 5:02:47 AM

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aloha,

we did our Gay Marriage in Germany 2001.
We were very prouud to be one of the first couples on August 1st in Germany.
because we travel a lot to Hawai'i and because we love the Hawaiian culture so much,
we would love to be proud witnesses when gay people get the right to marry -
because love don't have a gender - it is about equality - and that for us is the true message of Aloha!
we are supporting all our GLBT friends in Hawai'i !!!
malama pono!

Angela Gobelin & Verena Lappe
Hamburg, Germany

From: Clifford Chang
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 4:19:26 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

As a heterosexual my "right" to marry in the state of Hawaii is unquestioned. Such is still not the case for my gay sister or multitude of gay friends. But it absolutely should be their right as much as it is mine.. Their sexual orientation has no relevance to the state with regards to their choice to make a marriage commitment to the person they love.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all couples, straight or gay.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha,
Clifford Chang

Clifford Chang
4924 Waa Street
Honolulu, HI 96821

From: Kimberly Anne Redding
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Senate bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 4:07:58 AM

I stand on written testimony in STRONG support of Senate Bill 1.

Please excuse any typos. Sent from my Galaxy S®III

From: Jan Depwe
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 2:42:01 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jan Depwe
PO BOX 433
Hilo, HI 96721

From:	H Ho
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Testimony against Special Session SB1 - 10-28-13 before Sen Comm on JUD and LABOR
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 2:06:28 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Bill SB1.

1. We do not need a special session of 1 week to decide a controversial issue. Both sides need more time that is provided in regular session to fully debate the issue. Do no disregard the democratic process and checks and balances by having this special session.

2. Rushing this issue will open a Pandora's Box of seen and unforeseen problems. The ramifications of this legislation is not be be taken lightly. You, as legislatures have a duty to represent the people of the State of Hawaii, not just a special interest group.

3. The bill is written poorly and there are too many problems with it to be addressed in the limited time. Why are we rushing this issue? The U.S. Supreme Court case still allows States to decide on the same sex marriage issue. There is no Federal mandate to legalize same sex marriage. Please read the case for yourself.

4. Homosexuals should not have more rights than I have. Passing this legislation will open the door for this to happen. There are already court cases in other jurisdictions where one person's First Amendment right of Freedom of Religion is trumped by a homosexuals right to disagree with what that person believes in. Eg: http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2013/09/03/todd-american-dispatch-christian-bakery-closes-after-lgbt-threats-protests/. Some people are getting too militant in their beliefs.

I heard the testimony for and against same sex marriage years ago when it was first introduced to Hawaii. The majority of the people wanted marriage to be between a man and a woman. The reciprocal benefits was drafted to address the needs of the homosexuals. The same sex marriage issue is not to be taken lightly. The decisions you make on this issue will affect not only the future of Hawaii but of the United States.

I have met people who have told me that they were hurt so much in a relationship that they decided to become homosexual. I have also met people who accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior and no longer have homosexual desires. There may even be a familiar demonic spirit of homosexuality that has gone through a family tree due to a sin a person's ancestor had done. Jesus is the only way to be healed of this; by His love, shown by His dying on the cross for everyone in the whole world

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

It's not an easy decision you have to make so don't rush into it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify via this written testimony.

From: Pat Price
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:59:34 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Pat Price
Pprice519@yahoo.com
Captain Cook, HI 96704

From: Mikaela Tauiliili
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:53:36 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Mikaela Tauiliili and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Mikaela Tauiliili

From: Laura Manis
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:53:24 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Laura Manis
1350 Ala Moana Blvd.
Honolulu, HI 96814

From: Mike and Linda Lee
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Opposition to Bill S B no. 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:47:11 AM

Aloha,

I oppose marriage between the same sex, civil unions and equality for marriage rights to the same sex.

"Ua Mau Ke Ea O ka aina I ka Pono"

Our State Motto declares, "The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteouness"!

This Motto of our State of Hawaii spoken by Queen Ke'opuolani in 1825 when she was baptized into the Christian faith. King Kamehameha III whom held the position of authority over the Kingdom of Hawaii from 1825 til he died in 1854. Since May 1, 1959 to present this has been our State Motto. This was the character of our aina. The character and principle of this motto has not been honored and has diminished the value of who we are as people of this land that gives us life to live in righteouness. Righteousness is the state of moral perfection required by God to enter heaven.

"Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin." Romans 3:20

Let the people decide on Marriage! Marriage is sacred between 1 man and 1 women. Let us honor righteous living in our land.

2 Chron. 7:14 says; If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Mahalo, To God Be All The Glory and Honor!
Linda Lee
Hawaii

From: Ione Nobriga
To: Rep. Kyle Yamashita; Sen. J. Kalani English; JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1- Same Sex Marriage Proposal
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:39:39 AM

Dear Representative Yamashita, Senator English, and the Committee on Judiciary & Labor,

You are meeting this coming Monday, Oct. 28, 2013 in a special session to discuss many issues, including that of Same Sex Marriage SB1 at a hearing at 10:30am (State Capitol Auditorium). I will not be able to attend, therefor I am writing on behalf of my husband and I, of our OPPOSITION to any legislation that permits same sex marriage in our State.

As our representatives, it is only proper to let you know that we believe marriage to be as God intended it, a union between a man and a woman. Marriage is sanctified in the church, a holy sacrament, and it should not be treated any less than that. This Bill, and the several before it, would have marriage defined as no more than a legal contract between two people. Apparently, a "civil union" is not enough, as proponents want to redefine marriage altogether. It is a misstatement to call this an issue of equality, since same sex unions are preferences and behavior, not a state of being (such as race or gender). If this bill passes, would there be "equality" for clergy to decline performing a marriage ceremony for same sex couples, or would you force the issue with the church, or violate the rights of others who choose to honor traditional marriage.

This has been a divisive issue for too long, and in our beloved Hawai'i , we have spoken time and again for keeping marriage as a holy union between one man and one woman, even amending the State Constitution to say so. And yet, here we are again, in a costly "special session" to debate this yet again! Please, enough already!

We are called to "Love The Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Mathew 22:37) Let us honor Ke Akua by being pono, and keeping marriage sanctified! Please vote NO to same sex marriage!

Aloha Ke Akua,
Ione & David Nobriga
Kula, Maui

From: Luke adolfson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: My heart is troubled.
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:39:27 AM

I'm deeply concerned. My name is Luke Adolfson. I am a head coach at Lahainaluna High School of Lahaina, Maui. I have been highly involved with children's lives through coaching and a non-profit organization aimed at radically impacting highschool kids for their personal well-being. Including counselling, creating work ethic, and alternative activities to keep them out of trouble. I beseech you, highschoolers are highly confused and troubled as it is. The aftermath of this bill could devastate our future generations. Implementing homosexuality in school curriculum and teaching that heterosexuality and homosexuality are the same is going to create a confused, disease stricken society. Look at the facts:

1. Despite the fact that the heterosexual community is at least 20 times larger in numbers than the gay community, in 2011, Singapore's health ministry reveals that the number of homosexual and bisexual men diagnosed with HIV, overtakes that of heterosexual men. (Source:http://www.nuh.com.sg/news/media-articles_2319.html)
2. A research that focused on countries with long history of gay marriage i.e. Denmark and Norway, showed that married gays and lesbians have a shorter lifespan than their conventionally married counterparts – by 24 years!
(Source: http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/archive//ldn/2007/apr/07040309) Further comment: Studies have shown that years of smoking shortens the lifespan of the smoker from 1 to 7 years. What justification is there for condemning smoking and endorsing homosexuality?
3. A study on childhood and adolescent molestation also found rates of homosexual sexual abuse reported by homosexual adults to be almost 7 times higher for homosexual men, and 22 times higher for homosexual women, compared to their heterosexual counterparts. This strongly suggests that minors can be sexualised towards homosexuality upon exposure to homosexual stimulus or homosexual abuse.
(Source: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11501300) Further comment: Statistics like this affirmatively calls for the law to protect our minors from homosexual stimulus or abuse. This strongly supports the cause for the law to continue to draw a distinction between heterosexual sex and homosexual sex.
4. Latest research shows that children raised by homosexual parents experience more problems than children raised by married heterosexual parents.
5. In his book, Born Gay? Dr John Tay, clinical geneticist and former Head of the Division of Human Genetics in NUS, talks about the contrast in opinion between public and the scientific community, on whether gays are born this way. He noted how public's popular belief stems from the media play up of early scientific studies in the 1990s on brain structures, twin studies and the Xq28 gene. These studies have in fact been heavily criticized by fellow professionals to be flawed and biased. It must be noted too that other than the media headlines, the very same researchers of these studies have themselves confessed that they have not found anything genetic that is deterministic of the homosexual orientation.Dr John gave insight to the question of whether gays are born that way and they cannot change by explaining what genes really do to us:"The effects of genes on behaviour are very indirect because genes make proteins, not preferences. The scientific truth is that our genes do not force us into anything. Genes are responsible for an indirect influence, but on average, they do not force people into homosexuality. The startling conclusion is that genetic factors are much less important than environmental ones in the causation of homosexuals. On this basis, the claim by homosexuals that 'I am born that way, so I cannot change' is simply not true."6. Homosexual sex is often

associated with dangerous behaviour, which includes the use of illegal and deadly drugs. Businesses facilitating gays to meet up in groups for sex and orgies with strangers sprout illegally, functioning as spas and clubs. Such dangerous behaviour probably explains my point 1, and more alarmingly, it has been reported that minors, as young as age 15, 16, are getting increasingly involved – experimenting with gay sex. These are most troubling trends. Homosexual feelings can be fluid especially at young age but a minor would likely be imprinted with gender identity struggles leading to a homosexual orientation once he experiments with homosexual sex. While we understand individuals have preferences and it is also their private choice what they would do as adults with regards to their sexual behaviour, we must not overlook the rights of the rest of the public, especially our children.
(Source: http://news.asiaone.com/News/The+New+Paper/Story/A1Story20091108-178561.html; http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/drug-use-seven-times-higher-among-gays-8165971.html#)

7. Finally, the hard truth is, homosexuality cannot lay claim to its biological purpose, i.e. procreation, the way heterosexuality can. It's biological origin and hence, rights, is also unproven (point 5). In this, heterosexuality has a legitimacy which homosexuality cannot lay claim to, and the law is obliged to distinguish this fundamental difference. Otherwise, the unproven rights of a group will be pushed at the expense of proven rights of the other group. This includes the rights of our children, which will be compromised.

The other point I want to make is the effect on religion in Hawai'i. Religions are responsible for benefiting the majority of society. Look at colleges, universitys, hospitals, rehab programs, Lahainaluna Highschool, emergency outreach teams, and much more. Most were founded by religious groups. Religious groups give back to the community more than any other affiliations. They give people hope, peace, comfort, and most importantly they love people. And your trying to thank them by instituting laws that require them to marry homosexuals in their temple or building? In their eyes, including Buddhists and Christians, performing a marriage ceremony between homosexuals is an abomination to their beliefs according to both the Bible and the Dalai lama.

To support the act of homosexuality would be like supporting someone in committing suicide. Homosexual habits lead to a disease stricken, slow death. It's a sad lifestyle.

Thank you very much for your time!
-Luke Adolfson

From:	Stuart Wolthuis
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Marriage Equality - Written Testimony
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:25:58 AM

Aloha,

Please include this written testimony on the JDL minutes:

I am OPPOSED to the Bill on Marriage Equality. I have read the entire proposed bill on Marriage Equality and the accompanying accommodation definitions. I am a registered Hawaii State voter.

If people would like to enter relationships that are other than traditional marriage I firmly believe that is their right and freedom to choose, I would never want to limit someone's freedom to choose ... but I do emphatically recommend that choosing a relationship other than a traditional marriage should not be called a "marriage." Call it a civil union or some other name, but the definition of marriage was defined by God and should not be changed.

My beliefs are deeply rooted in my Christian faith. I truly and deeply "love my neighbor." At the same time I'm deeply concerned about the redefinition of marriage going on all over the world. **I believe marriage should be between a man and woman.**

As an ordained minister I'm also concerned about the language in the Governor's version of the bill which does not adequately protect religious institutions. The Governor appears "hell-bent" to get in to God's business and steal His wallet by removing tax-exempt status.

Furthermore, this special session DOES NOT allow due process for all Hawaii voters to voice their concerns and opinions. Legislation this important should be considered in a full and regular session of the legislature.

Legislators: I sincerely ask that you reject the bill on Marriage Equality based on:

1. Marriage should not be redefined,

2. Haste makes waste, this matter needs to be considered in a full legislative session; legislation hastily written and hastily passed will incur enormous litigation costs in the future,

3. Language in the current bill does not protect OUR 1st Amendment right of religious freedom

Thank you for your time and your kokua.

Mahalo,

Stuart Wolthuis

PS - I will try and come to the Capitol to give this testimony in person and reserve the right to do so.

From: Christian Tekurio
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 1:11:23 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Christian and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,
Christian Tekurio

From: Sean Mackintosh
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:58:07 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sean Mackintosh
55-615 kamehameha hwy
Laie, HI 96762

From: M Kimberly Lowe
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:40:44 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

M Kimberly Lowe
Ala Nanala Street
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: Elijah Yip
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Opposition to SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:37:01 AM

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB1. I urge you to vote no on the bill.

The problem with framing same-sex marriage in terms of equality is that it treats every individual choice as having intrinsic and ultimate value. While it is important that individual choice be respected, it is not true that respecting a person's choice is more important than anything else. Individual preferences sometimes conflict with the well-being of a community. And when they do, such preferences should yield to the good of the community. In the case of SB1, defining marriage based purely on what seems right to an individual would threaten the very integrity of marriage as an institution, which is dangerous because marriage is critical to a community's well-being.

If the legislature accepts the premise that individual choice should control how marriage is defined, that leaves no logical justification for the State to prohibit other types of unions that are currently illegal (such as incest and polygamy), and that SB1 recognizes should remain illegal. Taking the premise to its logical end, the State has no reason to prevent the marriage of a sister to her brother, or a father to his daughter, or of any combination of more than two individuals. So long as the individuals in these kinds of relationships are consenting adults who love each other, so the argument goes, why should they be treated differently than couples who may marry? Under this line of reasoning, it would be discriminatory for the State to forbid marriages that are incestuous or polygamous. In short, the rationale behind SB1 – that individual choice and equality are of absolute importance – paves the way for the definition of marriage to be further altered to the point that the institution of marriage becomes utterly unrecognizable. That would be disastrous, since monogamous marital relationships are the building blocks of a healthy society.

This possibility is not as remote as one might think. Just today, CNN published an article on its website entitled "Polyamory: When three isn't a crowd." (http://www.cnn.com/2013/10/26/living/relationships-polyamory/index.html?hpt=hp_c3). The article talks about individuals who embrace the lifestyle of polyamory, which they define as having simultaneous close emotional relationships with two or more other individuals. One of the proponents of polyamory explained in the article: "We're not trying to say that monogamy is bad . . . We're trying to promote the fact that everyone has a right to develop a relationship structure that works for them." Another supporter of polyamory was quoted as saying: "We want to promote the idea that any relationship is valid as long as it is a choice made by consenting adults[.] In this regard, and as in most things, promoting public

acceptance is the first step." The very arguments advanced by the supporters of polyamory are the ones being cited in favor of SB1. The CNN article further reports the existence of pending lawsuits that challenge the government's stance against polyamorous relationships.

Supporters on both sides of the issue have used emotional appeals to advance their positions. An issue with such profound implications for the community deserves to be resolved with thoughtfulness. As you study SB1, consider if you are confident that the extraordinary measure of changing a definition of marriage that has endured for centuries (if not millennia), will **not** damage the foundations of our society in the long term. And if you are confident that the answer is yes, on what data and reasoning do you base your confidence?

Please be courageous in rising above the wave of emotions surrounding the issue of same-sex marriage, and make a decision that protects the long-term good of our community. Please vote no on SB1.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Elijah Yip

2334 Kapiolani Boulevard #401

Honolulu, HI 96826

From: Hyrum Lindquist
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:25:32 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Hyrum Lindquist and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that it is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Hyrum Lindquist

From: Brian & Cheryle O
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:20:20 AM

How could a bill claim to promote marital equality, yet exclude other unions?

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

S.572-A Continuity of rights; civil union and reciprocal beneficiary relationships.

(a) Two individuals who are civil union partners or reciprocal beneficiaries with each other and who seek to marry each other shall be permitted to apply for a marriase (sp?) license under section 572-6 and to marrv each other under this chapter without first terminating their civil union or reciprocal beneficiary relationship; provided that the two individuals are otherwise eligible to marry under this chapter.

S.572-1 Requisites of valid marriage- it shall be necessary that:

(1) The respective parties do not stand in relation to each other of ancestor and descendant of any degree whatsoever, [brother and sister] two siblings of the half as well as to the whole blood, uncle and niece, uncle and nephew, aunt and nephew, or aunt and niece…

(3) Neither party has at the time any lawful wife, husband, or civil union partner living, except as provided in section 572-A.

The language of Senate Bill 1 addresses only same-sex couples, excluding all other relationships currently joined in a reciprocal beneficiary or civil unions partnership. What about them? Will they continue to be "separate but equal" under the new law? And will the offspring who result from these loving relationships remain "second class citizens" while their counterparts are elevated to legitimacy? Don't all children deserve this birthright?

How is this equal? Equality and equal rights means the law must extend to everyone, not only a few. Loving relationships exist in many forms. And, like same-sex couples, many of these relationships exist outside current legal parameters. The rights and benefits of marriage must be legislated to all, whether they are eligible to enter into a civil union or as reciprocal beneficiaries. Or their marriages are not currently recognized, as in the case of bigamy or polygamy.

Therefore, if S.B.1 is to fulfill its intended purpose, to establish marriage equality in this state, it is incumbent upon legislators to remove all exclusionary language, and extend the right and benefits of marriage to all of Hawai'i's residents.

Because everyone deserves the right to marry whom they love!

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryle O'Brien
357Keolu Dr.
Kailua, HI 96734
(808) 262-2445

From: Karen Loebl
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for Marriage Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:17:54 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of governor's bill, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of the governor's version of the marriage equity bill.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Karen Loebl
1976A 9th Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Abby Wasden
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:17:01 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Abby Wasden and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that it is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

This country was built on the foundation of freedom. I want to keep this freedom for everyone. I want to be able to say now and years from now that because of my beliefs I choose not to support these actions. NOT that the government forces me to adhere and accommodate to the wishes of those I firmly disagree with or that I will be penalized for not accommodating them. Is that what the founding father had in mind when they founded this nation? I dont think they would want the government to force or penalize ANYONE because of their religious beliefs. I will say again, I STRONGLY feel that it is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices.

Again, I would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Abby Wasden

From: Jacqueline Dimaya
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:16:15 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jacqueline Dimaya
94-853 Lumiiki St
Waipahu, HI 96796

From: Tom Merrick
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:16:06 AM

I am a gay man who has lived in Hawaii for 35 years now. I have been in a committed monogamous relationship with the same man (who I love dearly) for the last 12 ½ years. I deserve the right to marry, just like two adults of the opposite sex have the right. I deserve the rights that come with it and more importantly I deserve the RESPECT that comes with it. As you well know, separate is not equal. I fought for these rights back in the early 90's here and was so disappointed when outside sources came in and soiled the minds and the aloha of our citizens on this issue. We have waited so long already, please vote to give us the same rights as everyone else and allow us to finally be able to marry. This does not take anything away from those who are currently married, it only gives us the respect we deserve.

From my perspective, there are absolutely zero reasons to not pass this legislation.

1. Even though our constitution already protected religious entities from being forced to perform gay marriages if they did not want to, it is my understanding that the current bill being proposed beefs this up even more by calling it out even more specifically.
2. There should be NO doubt that gay men and women were BORN gay (other than from members of the "Flat Earth Society"). With that as a given, it is obvious that not giving us the same governmental rights as other citizens is discrimination. I think you will agree, separate is not equal, we all learned that back in the 60's I hope.
3. Gay marriage will only promote MORE people to be in committed loving relationship, which I agree is very good for society and what government should promote. A certain group of our Hawaii citizens criticize the gay community because they perceive all of us to lack morals and yet they refuse to give us the same tools the straight community has to encourage committed relationships.
4. The whole 'protect the children" thing being promoted by some activists is a bunch of hogwash. Note that Bishop Silva's quote on this had been proven FALSE on Civil Beat. I encourage you read "Community Voice: A Gay Man's Response to Bishop Silva's 'Discrimination'". I found it very enlightening.
http://www.civilbeat.com/voices/2013/09/05/19826-community-voice-a-gay-mans-response-to-bishop-silvas-discrimination

Again I ask you to step forward and vote to give us, gay couples, the same rights as everyone else and allow us to finally be able to marry. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Tom Merrick

Tom Merrick
1645 Ala Wai Blvd
Apt 1001
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Sean Fowler
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:05:19 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sean Fowler
95-128 kipapa dr apt 408
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Ian Stackhouse
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:03:35 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ian Stackhouse
1047 Ala Napunani St Unit 104
Honolulu, HI 96818

From: Gregg Johnson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:57:31 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Gregg Johnson
2415 Ala Wai Blvd
Apartment 1603
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Yolanda Abad
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1 Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:56:56 PM

October 26, 2013

To: Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
From: Alan Abad
Re: In Strong OPPOSITION to SB1, relating to "Equal Rights"
Hearing Day & Date: Monday, October 28, 2013
Hearing Time & Place: 10:30 a.m. in the Hawai'i State Capitol Auditorium

To Chair, Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
As a very concerned citizen, I am testifying against and oppose SB 1 for the following reasons:
1. The five days allotted for this special session is too short and does not allow a reasonable period for "we the people" to exercise an "equal right' in the democratic process, to voice concerns, problems, and issues concerning a highly sensitive and controversial matter.
2. The people of Hawaii voted in 1998 and legislation was passed to define marriage as between a man and a woman; an amendment **canno**t be made to legislation.
3. The "religious exemption" entitlement is nullified by the public accommodation clause and leaves the church vulnerable to lawsuits. The First Amendment states that government may neither establish a religion nor prohibit the free exercise of religious practices. When government says "it doesn't matter what you believe or practice, you must adhere to solemnizing a same gender union (a sin) and call it marriage", it denies and prohibits Freedom of Religion as provided in the First Amendment of our U. S. Constitution.
4. I deplore and object to the forthcoming indoctrination of Homosexuality and the effects of the homosexual behavior upon our young children, families, the educational system, our parental rights, and church if, same gender marriages are legislated into law.
Please, I urge you to vote **NO** to **SB1** and allow the people of Hawaii to decide and vote on this important and far-reaching issue.
Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Alan Abad
47-361 Mawaena St.
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

From: Moniqueca Kaufusi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Against senate Bill 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:56:54 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Nika Kaufusi and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,
Nika T Kaufusi

From: dante rivera rivera
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:55:09 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

dante rivera rivera
1635 merkle st
honolulu, HI 96819

From:	Ted Lubong
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Cc:	Sen. Donna Mercado Kim
Subject:	SB1 Oppose
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:54:30 PM

Aloha Honorable Senators and Representatives,

I thank you for representing the will of the people on this issue concerning Marriage. I urge you to do what is right by Letting the People of Hawaii Decide concerning this highly divisive issue.

We want to preserve the natural and spiritual laws of the traditional marriage Between one man and one woman for generation to generation.

May the life of our land be perpetuated in Righteousness

Ted and Donna Lubong
Representing 7 household voters
Sent from my iPadd

From: Suva Tapusoa
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Against Senate Bill One
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:53:13 PM

My name is Suva Tapusoa and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Suva Tapusoa

From: Jonathan Palisoc
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:51:19 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jonathan Palisoc
1448A Koaheahe ST
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: Romae Millar
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:49:54 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Romae Millar
98-487 Koauka Loop B1502
Aiea, HI 96701

From:	Theresa Shelby
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	SB1_ Relating to Equal Rights
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:48:15 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

1. The issue of same sex marriage is too important and complex to relegate to a special session. Only 2 public hearings are scheduled as compared to the usual 5 in regular session. The democratic process is being circumvented.
2. Special sessions are held for emergency situations/events: 9/11, Superferry or to correct technical flaws in our laws.
3. Civil unions already protect same gender couples. Hawaii is not in violation of SCOTUS (Supreme Court to the US) which stated that SSM is not a fundamental right. The recent determination in the Supreme court just states that the federal government will not negate state law regarding SSM- it did not determine that SSM is right (or wrong).
4. Please stop the special session and let the people vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Theresa Shelby - Honolulu, HI

From:	N2 Dance
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Cc:	Sen. Russell Ruderman
Subject:	Against SB1
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:47:42 PM

October 28, 2013, 10:30a Hearing
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

It is estimated that 5% of Hawai'i residents identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian but there are only ½ % of Hawai'i residents who are currently in Civil Unions. Which we would assume means that only 1 in 10 Gay/Lesbians are even interested in getting married. Redefining marriage will not only affect this very minute percentage of our population, but will change society forever for all Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that our children should be taught that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE**!

If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that **sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon**. Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

Rushing into this special session, I felt was very **unfair to those of us against same-sex marriage** because we did not see it coming and we have been scrambling (in such a short period of time) to educate all of our friends and family so they will participate in the issue at hand. The opposition on the other hand has been preparing for months. There was already a petition started back in July by those who are for the Bill. FYI, I also started a petition on Sunday, Oct 20, in the evening and just with in 5 days now have over 3,000 signatures- and this is almost equal to the amount on the other sides petition. If we had 3 1/2 months to prepare we would likely have at least 10 times what they have. Everybody knows- from back in 1998 how many people in Hawai'i oppose same sex marriage.

In addition, with this being such a controversial issue, probably one of the most controversial issues of all time, **I am very upset that people on outer islands do not have the chance to testify in person** as we would have had this Bill taken care of during regular session.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,

Angela Woods
RR 3 Box 1216
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: Wivina Ibay
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:44:46 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Wivina Ibay
1425 Kaumualii St. D228
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Maika Woods
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strongly Oppose the proposed Hawaii marriage equality act of 2013
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:44:38 PM

October 27, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

My name is Maika Woods and I am a leader in the community and in the church and I strongly oppose the Hawaii marriage equality act of 2013. I am also a business owner of 2 successful companies on the Big Island of Hawaii.

I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

Redefining marriage not only affects the estimated 5% of Hawai'i residents who identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian, but will change society forever for the other 95% of Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that having a Gay or Lesbianmarriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE**!

If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that **sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon**. Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage

Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
Maika Woods
RR 3 #1216
pahoa, hi 96778
Sent from my iPad

From: Sherie Yamada
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:43:12 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sherie Yamada
1036 Leomele Street
Pearl City, HI 96782

From: baijnauth singh
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:38:50 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

baijnauth singh
1911 kalakaua ave. #305
honolulu, HI 96815

From: Sabrina Pedro
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony Opposing Gay Marriage Bill
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:27:11 PM

To The Committee on Judiciary and Labor
SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013
TIME: 10:30A.M.

Written testimony **opposing** the gay marriage bill. I will not be testifying in person.

As a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii, I find it outrageous and offensive that gay rights groups from outside of our State are lobbying our representatives and senators to pass a gay marriage bill. These people, according to the Honolulu Star Advertiser, have spent thousands of dollars to try to sway our local representatives and senators. They are not residents here, what concern is it of theirs whether Hawaii allows “same sex marriages”?

This bill is offensive to me and it will affect ALL the people of Hawaii. The gay and lesbian community has stated that they wish to marry in order to receive same “tax benefits” as heterosexual couples. If this is what they want, they should petition the The U.S. Congress to change the Federal Tax Codes to recognize civil unions. This will allow them to receives the same “Tax Benefits” they are seeking. I feel they are not being discriminated against because there is no constitutional right to marry.

They were given civil unions/ domestic partnerships. Even though there is no constitutional “right to marry”, they clamor for the “right” to marry. If they achieve that goal, they will continue with their agenda of making the homosexual lifestyle as accepting as the heterosexual lifestyle. They will not stop with what they are given each time they are granted something new. They will strive for more, the community will give them an inch and they will TAKE a mile. They will continue on to press this agenda by demanding changes to school curriculum. They’ll be asking for equal lifestyle coverage in sex education text books. Research of those states that were the first to allow gay marriage finds that many schools are doing just that. In addition, many teachers are trying to be “politically correct” to the point of allowing posters reflecting the homosexual lifestyle while prohibiting posters of heterosexual lifestyles. They have been many court challenges in these schools. Is this what we want for our State? This is not what I want for my children to learn in schools.

Lastly, to elevate civil unions to the status of sacramental marriage is an insult to religious tradition and the institution of marriage and to all who believe and uphold the “traditional meaning” of marriage. Marriage of homosexuals is a sterile relationship; a mockery of an ancient institution that has served mankind for the propagation of the human race. This insults myself as well as my family as we are Christians. Should this be allowed, my family and I will be very offended as the uniqueness of marriage will deplete and there will be no more “specialness” to the term of marriage.

As someone who does not share this lifestyle, I feel as though this is reverse discrimination upon myself, my family, and all those who also do not share in this lifestyle. I strongly oppose this bill and wish to let the people vote on it in 2014.

From: Kennan Young
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony Opposing Gay Marriage Bill
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:26:28 PM

To The Committee on Judiciary and Labor

SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013

TIME: 10:30A.M.

Written testimony **opposing** the gay marriage bill. I will not be testifying in person.

As a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii, I find it outrageous and offensive that gay rights groups from outside of our State are lobbying our representatives and senators to pass a gay marriage bill. These people, according to the Honolulu Star Advertiser, have spent thousands of dollars to try to sway our local representatives and senators. They are not residents here, what concern is it of theirs whether Hawaii allows “same sex marriages”?

This bill is offensive to me and it will affect ALL the people of Hawaii. The gay and lesbian community has stated that they wish to marry in order to receive same “tax benefits” as heterosexual couples. If this is what they want, they should petition the The U.S. Congress to change the Federal Tax Codes to recognize civil unions. This will allow them to receives the same “Tax Benefits” they are seeking. I feel they are not being discriminated against because there is no constitutional right to marry.

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want for our State? This is not what I want for my children to learn in schools.

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As someone who does not share this lifestyle, I feel as though this is reverse discrimination upon myself, my family, and all those who also do not share in this lifestyle. I strongly oppose this bill and wish to let the people vote on it in 2014.

From: Jared DeCosrta
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:25:44 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jared DeCosrta
2459 Kapiolani Blvd AptE
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: jamie torres
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:23:00 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

jamie torres
3430 kaohinani dr
honolulu, HI 96817

From: Guillermo sancahez-diaz
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:21:51 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Guillermo sancahez-diaz
1019 maunaiha pl
honolulu, HI 96822

From: Thomas Edwards
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:20:35 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Thomas Edwards and I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thomas Edwards
2415 Ala Wai Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Craig Thistleton
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:56:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Craig Thistleton
1561 Pensacola St. #2402
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Troy Miles
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: I SUPPORT
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:55:29 AM

I SUPPORT GAY MARRIAGE

From: Scott MacGowan
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Gay Marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:54:30 AM

Aloha!

The time has come to bring marriage equality to the aloha state.

Government should not be denying these individuals the rights, responsibilities and privileges afforded to heterosexual couples.

Hawaii stands to lose a great deal, socially and economically if we don't do this now!

To put it as a vote by the people would be costly and a travesty of justice. Do you think that

Sent with aloha from my iPhone.

From: Sylvia
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: OPPOSE SB-1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:53:48 AM

I oppose SB-1

Mahalo,

Sylvia Hashimoto
Keaau, Hawaii

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Sara Matsuura
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	I support ALL Marriages
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:53:46 AM

Aloha

I strongly believe that everyone has the right to get married, regardless of sexual preference. Thank you!

Mahalo Nui Loa

Sara Matsuura

From:	Alvin Ty Law
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	For Gay Marriage in Ewa Beach
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:52:02 AM

I support gay marriage in Hawaii.

Alvin Law

From: David Robins
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Committee on Judiciary & Labor, SB1, Oct.28,2013, 1030am
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:51:10 AM

Aloha,

It is disheartening to hear the words "Let The People Decide". A majority should never be allowed to vote on the rights of a minority.

"Let the people decide"...is something of a threat and weapon the opposition is using in an attempt to deny a whole group of Hawaii's population their civil rights. Somehow, they have justified it in their minds that's its ok to decide the rights of others and tell them who they can legally love & marry. In short, it's discrimination. I support marriage equality.

If you will indulge me, just imagine for a few minutes that your destiny was being decided by people you've never met, people who don't even know anything about you. But they're judging you. Worse yet, they're going to decide whether you can marry the person you love...someone you found in life and want that person as your mate & the person you want to marry and make a lifetime commitment to and build a life together. The perfect fit for you. And it has nothing to do with a so-called "lifestyle choice", because you've always known who you are, just like gay people know who they are and were born into this world exactly who they are. Like you, it's not a lifestyle choice. Just imagine how devastated you'd feel if you were told you couldn't marry that person. How would it make you feel? Really try to imagine that and feel what's it like to be told your love is not worthy of marriage. It doesn't count. This is exactly what gay people are feeling. Is it right? Is it fair? Of course not. In fact, this is a dark time of history in the making and you will be remembered by how you "voted" on the rights of others. Will you be on the right side if history? It really matters. This is the decision of a lifetime, because human lives are involved here. It's high stakes for gay couples. Their future hinges on it. And we find that the decision is in the hands of others. Complete strangers to us.

If there were a vote by the public, marriage equality would win. The most recent poll on Friday has 64% of Hawaii voters in support of marriage equality and 34% against. This is huge and this is progress. It should be a clear indication that society has moved forward and people do believe others should have the same rights they enjoy daily. It has nothing to do with religion. These are constitutional rights. Our Constitution states that all people are equal. Or should be. And lawmakers took an oath to be fair and uphold the Constitution...for ALL citizens, not just some of the citizens. If you don't believe in this, the real truth is that you shouldn't be a lawmaker. If you can't be fair to all people, you should not be making such important decisions. And I say that with clarity based on fact. Not to target anyone. But rather, to illuminate the importance of treating others as you would want to be treated. To not judge others and make false claims that any one group is better than the other. We are all equal. This is fact. There is no gray area here. One should have tremendous clarity about what is right...and wrong.

And now we see mainland money pouring in with insulting TV ads funded by the National Organization for Marriage (NOM), a certified hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. That this is allowed to permeate our airwaves and ridicule the very essence of Aloha and Hawaii's people. To influence any weak-minded lawmakers and invite the public into discriminating and a license to hate others. This is wrong. And I would trust you would see through this veiled attempt to distort truth and the depth they've gone to with fear-mongering and bullying. It is such a disgrace. It's incredibly offensive. And it's dishonest. In short, it is desperate and people see through it.

In conclusion, I would hope you vote for marriage equality. It is the right thing to do. My partner of 29.5 years and I have been waiting to marry for decades now. How much longer are we expected to wait? The time is now. This is it. And our lawmakers need to get it right. We all deserve to be loved and give love in return. It's really just that simple. Live is what it is all about.

Mahalo for your time and for voting for marriage equality.

David Robins

Sent from my iPhone...with Aloha!

From:	Anthony alvarado
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Marriage equality.
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:48:39 AM

Aloha,

Marriage equality = the right thing. Please pass this bill so that all Ohana can have equal rights.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

From: CPT Karen-Nicole Knapper
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: I am an Active Duty Army Officer and I support Gay Marriage!
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:48:38 AM

My name is Captain Nicole Knapper, I am a 13 year Army Veteran, and I am a homeowner in Mililani Mauka, AND, a proud supporter of Gay Marriage.

If you need any additional information about where we stand on this issue, please let me know.

Thank you!
Nicole

"When I dare to be powerful--to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid."

-Audre Lorde

From:	Girem Yoo
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Support the gay marriage
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:48:19 AM

Dear whom it may concern,

Hi. I'm strongly supporting the gay marriages because they have equal rights as a human being.

Thank you,

Girem Yoo

From: Tom Pohaku Stone
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:48:04 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I and our Native Hawaiian non profit organization KANALU are in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone based on equality, Gay and lesbian individuals should have the same marriage rights as heterosexual couples.

As an elected servant of the people we are asking all of you to pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Tom Pohaku Stone
47-718 Ahuimanu Loop
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: aaronescobido@yahoo.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Support the Gay Marriage Bill
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:47:32 AM

Hi,

My name is Aaron Escobido-Ortiz. I want to ask you to please support Marriage equality. Allowing gay couples to Marry will help protect their relationship. In no way will it hurt or affect anyone else's relationship. Thank you for your time.

Aaron, Event Coordinator
A & B Party Rentals, LLC
2045 Lauwiliwili St. Suite 601
Kapolei, Hi 96707
Ph: 688-7707
Fax: 888-8708
anbpartyrentals.com

From:	Helen Trusdell
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	SB1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:45:39 AM

I oppose SB1 thank you

Sent from my iPhone

From: Nue Nikora
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: I oppose SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:45:10 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

My name is KeAnuenue Nikora and I oppose SB 1. A few reasons why I oppose this bill are because I believe that marriage should be between one man and one woman. I also believe that the current draft as it is written is very vague. Although it clearly states who it will protect, it fails to recognize who or what it will not protect. Finally there is too much uncertainty regarding what a final draft of this bill will actually say.

Marriage must be preserved for one man and one woman. Based on the SB1 draft that I just read, on page 12 lines 15-18 it clearly states that *the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage as a unique social institution based upon the committed union of one man and one woman*. Yes, the lines are crossed out but it proves that the people of Hawaii have already decided. The fact that this issue is being revisited and could possibly be over turned is very unfair and upsetting. If anything, LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE, once again!

There is very little clarity about who or what it will not protect. Non-clergy members of the public who are authorized by the state to solemnize marriage are NOT protected from this bill. They will be forced to perform any marriage including same gender, regardless of their personal view; essentially taking away their freedom of choice.

Also, the bill neglects to include any protection of buildings, more specifically, churches. Sure, there is protection for the solemnization of marriages on church grounds, however what protection is there for post solemnization celebrations or parties. There are none! Protection is minimal for members of any congregation that hold their place of worship sacred. With no protection in SB1 for church grounds, our freedom of religion and choice are being severely threatened. Another flaw of Senate Bill 1 is that it fails to define *membership* in regard to churches. Who decides what constitutes membership in a particular church that may be deemed exempt? These are just a few of the examples regarding the lack of protection in SB1.

Finally the fact that a final draft has not even been submitted for the public to read is very alarming! How can our legislature even consider passing a bill of this magnitude without even submitting a final draft? At this point, SB1 has too many flaws and loop holes to be considered into law. As it stands, regardless of what draft it is, passing this bill will be more detrimental to our state than benefit.

I thank you for your time and again encourage you to please vote no to SB1 Hawaii Marriage Equality Act 2013.

Mahalo,
KeAnuenue Nikora

From: Ted Peck
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB-1 opposed
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:45:00 AM

This bill, while well intentioned, has the result of making may faith illegal. The law is not the place for enforcing tenets if faith. It also is not the place for outlawing the practice of faith. Both of these are protected by the Constitution. This law as written will not survive a Constitutional challenge, but more immediately it rents the fabric of our community. You have heard wide and far from our community, most strongly in opposition. These people that oppose same sex marriage in our community are not bigots and haters - they are people that care about Hawaii. Please do not ignore them.

Ted Peck
371-7514

From:	Dustin-Alan Kaiahua
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Strong support for SB1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:44:36 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I think that we deserve equal benefits, taxation, and opportunities regardless of gender.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dustin-Alan Kaiahua
620 Mccully Street Apt 507
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: Aaron
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Re: Same Sex Issues
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:43:28 AM

I am submitting my support for equality and equal rights to love for all!

Aaron Joyce

From: Ralph & Shirley
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:42:43 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking that you allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage, by putting a vote to the public. This is such an important issue that we, as a state should seriously be given consideration. I feel SB1 would infringe on my rights as a citizen. As a teacher, I am opposed to being forced to teach details about alternate lifestyle sexual practices without any possibility of objection, for example a discussion of the risks involved. Instead, I believe that the people should be given the opportunity to give their input by voting on this issue. I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week. We need to have more discussion. I ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be discussed and examined as with all other bills. The impact of this legislation is far reaching and will affect all citizens of Hawaii. Instead of legislating what is best for us, we, the people, should decide on how to define our culture, customs, and traditions. Your "yes" vote on SB1 is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Shirley Yasuhara
95-754 Maiaku Street
Mililani, HI 96789

From: Susan Okamura
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:42:14 AM

To: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Susan Okamura, Registered Voter

Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

In OPPOSITION

Dear Chairs and Committee Members:

I oppose SB 1 for the following reasons:

1) I believe that creating a new law requires more time than 5-7 days for discussion and public input.

2) As a constituent,I do not believe I am being fairly represented and I would like the opportunity as a registered voter to vote on this issue as I did in 1998.

3) As a parent, I am concerned that this new law will affect what my children are taught in school and that I will lose my parental rights to have any say about that.

4) As a citizen, I am concerned that this new law infringes on my First Amendment Rights.

While I believe we must fight against discrimination and that equality is the core of our nation's principals,we cannot put one group's rights higher than another group. This "fast-track" process does not represent the way our government is suppose to work for all of its people,especially the Neighbor Islands. No other state in our country has enacted a bill that carries monumental social consequences in such a short period of time, please give us more time to learn from other states who passed this law. Let us learn from their experiences and incorporate that into our law so that all people's rights are protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony,

Susan Okamura

From: Lynne Beckstrom
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Marriage Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:42:07 AM

October 27, 2013
Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol Auditorium
415 South Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Strong support for Senate Bill 1

Aloha Chairperson Hee and fellow committee members;

Same-gender couples are asking for marriage equality. Opponents have shown no compelling reasons for denying this basic right. Mainly they have been using scare tactics and predicting dire consequences that are unfounded. They claim that passage of this bill will jeopardize their protection under the Constitutional separation of church and state. And yet, they think they are entitled to impose their religious views on society as a whole.
Please, vote to approve same-gender marriage.

Lynne Beckstrom
Marty Cofield
91-1182 Bryan Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Phone: 888-6412
email: hantayo2002@earthlink.net

From: Kent Manaois
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:41:36 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kent Manaois
632 Pumehana Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Cheryle Reed
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:39:50 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Cheryle Reed
po box 1798
wailuku, HI 96793

From:	Stevie Gurr
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Senate Bill One
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:36:03 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is **Stevie Gurr** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Stevie Gurr

From: Tranae Trusdell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:33:16 AM

I oppose SB1 THANK YOU

From:	Sharon Au, Principal Broker, CRB, CRS, GREEN, GRI, SRES
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Cc:	au808@hawaii.rr.com
Subject:	testimony
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:32:16 AM
Attachments:	image001.png

Aloha Ka Kou, I am in strong support of Senate Bill #1!
Our basic Civil and Equal Rights should be upheld.
There was a time when women were not allowed to vote. Blacks and Interracial Marriages were also legally discriminated against.
Please help in making history in Hawaii by legalizing same sex marriage.
The national and global trend is for equal rights. In the land of Aloha we need to be a role model for equal rights.
Children today do not understand why other children with same sex parents cannot marry. We are all families that should be treated equally.
Thank you for your help.
Mahalo nui,

PROPERTIES OF THE PACIFIC

Sharon Au, Principal Broker, Co-Owner

Realtor, **CRB**, **CRS, GRI**, **GREEN** & **SRES** - **Real Estate Professsional for 28 yrs**

3615 Harding Ave Suite 203, Honolulu, HI 96816 **(808) 733-0722**

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From: Tranae Trusdell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:31:48 AM

I oppose SB1 thank you

From: Pua Auyong White
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:29:03 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify

Pua Auyong White
3432 Kalihi
Honolulu, HI 96819

From: Jeremy Heyer
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:28:49 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1 and to express the inequality that I experience because of State of Hawaii law.

I want to mary the love of my life. The State denies me that right because my gender is the same as my partner. If I were born female, which is something out of my control, I would be able to do so and experience equality.

If you believe that being gay is a choice, please pick one day to be gay. If it's a choice, then you should try it for a day and just switch back at the end of the day.

This is discrimination was thrust upon us by the majority. They don't have the numbers that they used to. There has been a shift which is in part why you are here today.

But even with this shift Civil rights should not be put to popular vote. You have a duty in your position to protect minority rights.

The People will know what side of history you are on and so will you. When you age and you have grandchildren and great grandchildren, some of whom will be gay - it's a part of being human - you will be asked what your role was when you sat here today.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jeremy Heyer
620 Mccully Street
507
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: Victoria Puaoi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:28:33 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Victoria Puaoi
650 pumehana street
wailuku, HI 96793

From: Alan Katz
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:22:11 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I am a professor of public health at the University of Hawaii and an STD physican at the Hawaii State Department of Health but I do not speak for the State of Hawaii or the University. My testimony is provided in my role as a concerned private citizen.

There is not objective reason to deny same sex couples the right to marry. The opposition has provided flawed arguments in support of their perspective. One issue that has repeated been voiced is the high rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among men who have sex with men (MSM). A key reason that MSM have had higher rates of STDs is that they have been discriminated against, have been forced to maintain a closeted life style, and have been unable to legally marry and commit to one person. Providing MSM the same rights to marry as heterosexual couples would be expected to lower rates of STDs.

Of note, women who have sex with women (rather than men), have much lower rates of STDs than do heterosexual women.

Credible research has consistently shown that homosexuality is not a life style choice. Gays and lesbians have to face many challenges, obstacles, and discrimination on the basis of who they are.

I thank you in advance for doing the right thing and for this opportunity to testify.

Alan Katz
1030 Mokapu Blvd
Kailua, HI 96734

From: wfguenth
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: BILL SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:17:06 AM

NO on Same Sex Marriage;
Let the people vote!
Protect traditional marriage and family.

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

From: Seven Baysa
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony regarding SB-1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:16:50 AM

My name is Min Zhang Baysa and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am not a US citizen but I am a resident in the State of Hawaii. I have learned in school both back home and here about the democratic nature of US legislature and I am shocked at how the process of Senate Bill 1 went against what the law profess to be. I strongly oppose a social issue of great significance in being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Min Zhang Baysa

From: Diane Lee Pilla
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights (Marriage Equality)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:16:47 AM

October 28, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee and Members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights (Marriage Equality) for my lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender brothers and sisters. If they love somebody and want to marry that person, who are we to deny them the right to marriage and all rights associated? I believe that we are changing the laws to help restore equal rights that have been long denied.

In my life, I have known same sex people in long term relationships, who were barred from obtaining family medical coverage and denied access to their loved one who was dying in the hospital. Where is the justice for these people? Why are these family units being denied rights that heterosexual couples enjoy such as Social Security survivor benefits, tax-free access for spouses to employer health plans, joint filing of income taxes, estate and gift tax exemptions, veterans and military benefits, spousal benefits for federal employees, and immigration rights?

The opponents want to "Let the People Decide". I read that a January 2013 Honolulu Civil Beat poll found that 55% of Hawaii voters were in favor of same sex marriage, while 37% were opposed. Do they know that?

There are many social ills in the world today, but marriage equality is not one of them. What we have witnessed in this debate over Marriage Equality is people's fears and narrow mindedness. If the opponents are Christian believers, I would ask them to remember the "Great Commandment."

I thank you for the privilege of expressing myself in this matter. I urge you to pass SB 1: the time for marriage equality is NOW. I stand in faith and hope in our legislative leaders to do right for all.

Diane Lee Pilla
1130 Akipohe Street, #B
Kailua, HI 96734
dmleehi@hotmail.com

From: Jason Scott Earl
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1 Marriage Equity Bill
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:14:56 AM

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

MEASURE NO. : SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights
DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013
TIME: 10:30 a.m.

I am grateful that our government has established this system to allow even a common person as myself to speak today.

As you know, we are here today to discuss the Marriage Equality Bill. There are within this document several lines that concern me and will directly affect my life, my children's lives, our communities and the rising generations after us.

Currently I enjoy the freedoms of worshipping God, Almighty, as I please. I have tried my best to seek peace and happiness, as best as I can, in this life. I have tried to do what I feel God would have me do and in doing so, a great sense of peace has come to my conscience knowing that I have tried very hard to do what is right. Sometimes it is hard to do what is right, even on a day like today. To do something knowing others will be upset with me and disagree and maybe even discriminate against me, for what I am to say.

I state these things because in this matter of this Marriage Equality Bill, each of us involved are asked to make decisions regarding how the rising generations will grow up and come to know the world. Each of us, I believe, wants to feel peace to our conscience and therefore, we each need to make decisions today for what is best for our communities, societies and our great State of Hawaii and not what is best for ourselves or with a short, narrow viewed mind.

I am concerned about my religious freedoms. With this Marriage Equality Bill they are to be limited and constrained so that I am no longer allowed to believe what I may without punishment and discrimination.

As you know, the Constitutional Amendment clearly states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech,..."

Is this not why the pilgrims from Western Europe left their homelands, so they could worship according to their own conscience and not what the government of their lands dictated?

Were not the Founding Fathers of this country so very conscientious to allow the people to worship and believe as they please?

Why is it now, that the government wants to take away these freedoms and rights so carefully preserved and set in motion?

If we want to continue to preserve our religious freedoms, that were deemed important to others, and even to people living today, like myself, then we need to protect these religious freedoms by the laws of our land for the safety and well being of all, even those, like our children, who cannot speak today.

I believe what Dr. Russell M. Nelson said earlier this month. "In our day, civil governments have a vested interest in protecting marriage (between a man and woman) because strong families constitute the best way of providing for the health, education, welfare, and prosperity of rising generations. But civil governments are heavily influenced by social trends and secular philosophies as they write, rewrite, and enforce laws." 1

I also believe what Dr. Paul Popenoe said on the matter: "strong family life is indispensable, not merely to the culture but actually the survival of any people. In the history of mankind one nation after another has followed this pattern (of degrading the family life

and substituting other patterns for it) and they have disappeared...for the well being of the community, for the very existence of the nation, one of the first questions asked about any proposed change in culture should be, 'Will it strengthen the family?' "

The established religion I am a part of, made a worldwide declaration in 1995 stating "We the First Presidency and the Council of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and that the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children. ....The first commandment that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife. ... We further declare that God has commanded that the sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife." 3

I believe this. This is what my "established religion" declares and believes. This Marriage Equality Bill directly "prohibits the free exercise" to follow this belief and declaration.

The temples that are a part of my organized and established religion only preform marriages between a man and a woman as husband and wife. With this bill, as stated, our church and established religion will suffer. Lawsuits will follow, we won't be able to worship and live and believe what we feel is true and what God's commandments are, without penalty, discrimination and punishment.

I don't want same-sex marriages in our communities. By allowing same-sex marriages into our society, this will alter our way of life too drastically. Universities with married student housing will need to recognize all married couples, however, because of our religious beliefs, that marriage is between a man and a woman. The Private University would rather shut down as a University, than allow same-sex couples to live together, because we don't feel these marriages are of God.

I don't want same-sex marriages in our communities because sometimes we start something, not fully understanding all of the implications that would follow in the initial process. I strongly feel this is one of those things. We do not know all the implications that will effect our communities or for the rising generations. We only know from the study of past societies that un-natural relationships, or same-sex relationships cause those societies to break down so that they no longer exist. Actually, I am sure there are some who know much more in details, what I just tried to convey, like Dr. Paul Popenoe. But that is the bottom line, something happens so that their communities don't exist any longer. The family, with a husband and wife, man and woman, is what survives.

Please protect my religious freedoms. Please act in a manner that your soul will have a peace of conscience. Please think how this will drastically change the basic building block of our societies for the past centuries. Please don't think of yourselves, but the rising generations, asking 'Will this Marriage Equality Billl strengthen our families?" And please consider the religious freedoms this bill is imposing upon, especially my established religion and how I worship, believe and live.

May peace be with you as you make these critical decisions that alter life as we know it today. And if I may, I would like to close my testimony on a religious note, quoting the Master "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27

Jason Scott Earl, Ph.D.
Professor of Business Management
jasonscottearl@gmail.com
808.675.3355 office
805.717.2553 cell

From: Maddy Udall
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:14:51 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Madeline Udall and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,
Madeline Udall

From: Jenna Robinson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:10:40 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of Governor Abercrombie's rewrite of SB1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. Thousands of children are kick out of their homes because of their queer identity and subsequently homeless. There are hundreds of queer youth living on the streets of Honolulu because their "christian" parents do not practice the teachings of Jesus by loving their children. Christian and Mormon children have been attempting and successfully committing suicide because of the shame their families have place on them for being queer. Marriage Equality will show these children that there is hope for them, that their identity and love is recognized by the government.

In response to Hawaiian christians - why are they denying Hawaiian culture in regards of mahu people? A mahu was a sacred individual in ancient Hawaiian society. They are considered to be closer to the spiritual world because they are a part of all genders. They were respected enough to chant mo'olelo. They married people of the same sex. They were warriors. They were kumu hulas. Hawaiians would bring their newborns to mahus to name them. They are sacred. Mahus were allowed to be in same-sex relationships.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. My future is in your hands.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jenna Robinson
3235 Ahinahina Pl
Honolulu, HI 96816

From:	Carrie Borge
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO PASSING SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:10:07 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO PASSING SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:
I humbly request my short testimony be read at this hearing by someone on your staff.
Would you please allow more time for this bill to be reviewed so the people of Hawaii can be given a fair chance to understand and decide? Are we about to repeat history for the Hawaiian people by not giving them a proper voice to be heard? And a vote to decide? I'm not understanding the rush. Please wait until regular session and go through the appropriate process. A wise ruler would hear the cries of the people and ho'opane'e (postpone) this important decision.
Mahalo,
Carrie Borge
73-4411 Kakahiaka St.
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

From: OutServe Hawaii
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: OutServe-SLDN Hawaii"s statement on SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:09:42 AM

The Cost of Marriage Inequality for Military Members

When DOMA was struck down by the Supreme Court, it opened the door for gay, lesbian, and bisexual soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsmen to receive the same benefits as their straight counterparts if they were married in a state that recognizes same-sex marriage.

However, **the Department of Defense does not recognize civil unions**. Unless Hawai'i recognizes and grants same-sex marriages, same-sex couples in the military who are stationed in Hawai'i must travel to a locality which grants marriage licenses to same-sex couples if they wish to receive the same benefits as their straight counterparts.

These benefits include:

- Medical coverage
- Dental coverage
- Permission for member to leave barracks to live with spouse
- Basic Allowance for Housing at with-dependent rate
- DoD Dependent ID cards, which grant--
    - Base and facilities access
    - Commissary and Military Exchange access
    - Morale, Welfare and Recreation services

A same-sex military couple stationed in Hawai'i **must pay an estimated $1,400** for benefit parity, compared to the $60 cost of a marriage license in Hawai'i for a straight military couple. This includes the average cost of two round-trip tickets to California, the cost of a marriage license and basic travel expenses.

When couples leave the state to get married, Hawai'i businesses are hurt, too. **$15,000 to $30,000** for the cost of a wedding and **tens of thousands of dollars in tourism revenue** from would-be wedding guests is spent somewhere else or not at all.

OutServe-SLDN Hawai'i hopes that the Legislature will pass marriage equality legislation. This state has become home for many of our 250 members, and we want to be able to celebrate our joys with our Hawaiian 'ohana and hui.

Mahalo,
Peter Musser
Chapter Leader, OutServe-SLDN Hawaii

From: Jessica Benioni
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:07:36 AM

My name is **Jessica Benioni** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Jessica Benioni

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Lani Kohatsu
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Testimony in opposition of SB 1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:07:28 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality

Dear Honorable Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

Let me tell you why.

My mom chose to be in a relationship with another woman. It has had a lasting affected on my siblings and I for over three decades.

How it's affected me during my elementary school days was by bringing on this sudden weight of darkness and gloom. I knew in my heart of hearts that my family secret would have its way with me from both angles, my mom was no longer in my life and my peers would eventually find out and rub it in my face. As innocent as young kids can be the questions began to come "whose that lady your mom is always with?, where's your dad?, how come your mom doesn't live with you?" These questions haunted me as a little girl. No other adult had the courage to confront her or even speak up to tell her that her instant gratification was bringing heart ache and sadness in her kids. The silence was torture. I would think am I the only one who feels that this is wrong?

Intermediate and high school was a whirl wind of suppressing and covering up what was eating me on the inside. Alcoholism, drug abuse, self abuse, wreck less living was what I found helped me to numb myself from the anger and resentment I had towards my mom for the choices that she made.

The painful result has made its way into my life as a wife and a mother. My mom lives with me now and I realize that she has turned towards alcohol in order to dull the painful consequence of her choice. There aren't enough "I love you" and "I forgive you" that can encourage her to spend time with her children and grandchildren. Although my mom tries to move forward she seems to be tormented by the choice she has made which was to spend almost half of her life with another woman.

It is clear from my experience that passing this bill will have disastrous consequences not only for the immediate family involved but also the couples choosing to live a lifestyle of homosexuality.

I realize that I have no control over the many people choosing a lifestyle if homosexuality but as a mom who chooses to practice self control and self sacrifice for the good of my children and the little eyes looking up to me as a coach, an aunty, and an educator I refuse to sit back and allow the silence to once again bring darkness and heart ache to another family. I choose to revisit my dark pass, and to speak up against whomever feels like same sex marriage would be a positive culture to except as normal.

Passing this bill without an equal opportunity to place my vote in regards to my opposition tells me only one thing, I have no say, no control and my opinion has no value. I say it is only right to give me, and the residents of Hawaii an opportunity to vote on this issue in order to avoid this pain to repeat itself over again in other families here at my home, where I was born and raised, where the culture and the legacy is worth fighting for, Hawaii.

Please consider my life story and what I am asking for in regards to SB 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lani Kohatsu

Waimanalo, Hawaii, 96795

Sent from my iPhone
Sent from my iPhone

From: Dale Head
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Marriage Equality. Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:59:44 AM

Aloha:

My name is Dale A. Head. I am a 64 year old male retiree (Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & U.S. Army Vietnam veteran). For more than 36 years I have lived with my companion, Leonard J. Cadavona. He is a veteran from the U.S. Air Force. Jeff served in Libya and Germany before becoming disabled & retiring from military service. On June 9th of this year we traveled to Davenport, Iowa and finally got married after having lived together for more than three decades. While we would have preferred to get married here in Hawaii, as that was not allowed by law, we had to leave home and incur expenses to go elsewhere.

I am in favor of the bill for Marriage Equality. Couples whom happen to be of the same sex should not be discriminated against by the State as that violates our rights to equal treatment and protection.

Recently I received a post card from a church, New Hope Chapel asking my help for them to continue societal discrimination against gay people. Also I've noticed commercials on television funded by mainland hate groups seeking to preserve Hawaii discriminatory laws against people such as myself. So sad. Their efforts are selfish exercises in hate. Ugh!

Please respect the premise of separation between Church and State and pass the bill to provide Marriage Equality.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale A. Head
85-175 Farrington HwyC-428 Waianae, Hawaii. 96792 696-4589

Sent from my iPad

From: mahina.k5@gmail.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:58:03 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Mahinalani Kahoalii and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

I do not believe that this should law should be passed. At this moment it may look like it's about making others happy, giving them equal rights but it would destroy another person's heart. What about every religious person out there who have been taught the gospel and believed it to be true? Would that portray that everything they once believed is a lie?

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Mahinalani Kahoalii

Sent from Windows Mail

From: Elizabeth Kline
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:56:35 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry is a basic right that should be within reach for all of Hawaii, including the gay and lesbian community. Members of the LGBT community get married for similar reasons as everyone else- we want the opportunity to make a commitment to the person we love. Hawaii should not turn its back on the members of the LGBT community simply because our love is seen differently. We experience the same range of emotions and experiences as those who are part of the straight community. We are not asking for special treatment in the right to marry, we are simply asking that we be treated equal.

I am writing you today in hopes that you will support the governors bill on marriage equality. I would love the opportunity to one day get married in the state that is my home. I know that you will do the right thing and not deny the LGBT community the right to marry.

"those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves"
-Abraham Lincoln.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Elizabeth Kline
3235 Ahinahina Pl
Honolulu
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: Ronald Wood
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Church Music Director FOR Marriage Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:55:03 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ronald Wood
P O Box 1362
Pahoa, HI 96778

From: Amy Tano
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Opposition to SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:53:09 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Amy Tano
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Vasiti Cava
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Aloha
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:52:24 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is **Vasiti Edith Cava** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Vasiti E. Cava

From: Makamae Torres
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:51:42 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Makamae Torres
485 Waianuenue Ave c217
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Chantell Agustin
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:49:16 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

As a United States military soldier, we live in America. The land of the free, and the home of the brave. I am proud and honored to serve our country, and forever grateful that our founding fathers have created the Declaration of Independence.

In closing, I humbly ask for you to please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Time is of the essence.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." - Thomas Jefferson

Chantell Agustin
775 McNeill Street #201
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Kaminieli Tabakece
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Aloha
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:45:41 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is **Kaminieli Lauwai Matakicakau Tabakece** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Kaminieli L. M. Tabakece

From: russell03@gmail.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong Opposition to SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:43:43 AM

To:Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

This email is concerning the special session on same sex marriage. I am extremely upset as I feel same sex marriage is not a special session debate, but a debate for the people. This is a democracy and the people should decide. Freedoms are being taken away and should be preserved in all aspects whenever possible.

I feel the governor has gone behind our backs to fulfill his agenda. Regardless on my stance on marriage, it should still be decided by the people in a democratic method. This governor and representatives should trust the people enough to decide. I'm disappointed that you don't trust the people to decide.

Furthermore, the written proposal for same sex marriage undermines freedoms given in the constitution of the United States, namely freedom of religion. On such a crucial topic THE PEOPLE SHOULD DECIDE!!

Sincerely,

Melissa Russell
Kaneohe

From: Gaelyn Penberthy
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony for Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:40:27 AM

October 25, 2013

Monday, October 28, 2013 – 10:30 a.m.
Senate's Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capitol Auditorium

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1

Aloha, Chairperson Hee and fellow committee members,

If you want to restrict marriage to certain categories of people--such as opposite-sex couples--you must have really good reasons. For example, spouses can't be 8 years old; they can't be siblings. Those are good reasons.

But maintaining the status quo isn't a good reason. We've already had that court case in 1996, and Judge Chang ruled that the state didn't have any legal or social reasons to withhold the rights and benefits of marriage from same-sex couples. The US Supreme Court agreed.

Please allow same-sex couples to marry. It's time.

Sincerely,
Gaelyn Penberthy
939 Kawaiki Pl.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

From: Alex Panida
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Clayton Hee, Chair
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:38:16 AM

10/26/13

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am a registered voter and I'm opposed to the special session and the bill to legalize same-sex marriage.

The tactics by this government to keep the bill out of regular session, restrict amendments, and to limit public testimony is evidence that the government is not interested in the will of the people. This Special session amounts to a state imposed redefinition of marriage that lacks a clear substantive state interest. It amounts to an imposed a "new morality" on the people of Hawaii while threatening the First Amendment rights of tens of thousands.

Whatever your personal beliefs are on this matter, I urge you to allow the people to decide this issue.

Respectfully,

Alex Panida

94-514 Apii St

Waipahu, HI 96797

808 741 2797

From: DY
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:37:49 AM

Please accept my testimony that I am against same sex marriage and the governor and the representatives should let the people vote. Thank you

From: Renee Uperesa
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Relating to Equal Rights Second Special Session
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:36:39 AM

Measure: SB 1
Date & Time: Monday October 28, 2013 @ 10:30am
This is a written testimony only.

I am opposed to this bill because of my belief on the sanctity of marriage that it is between a man and a woman.
Also, it is my belief that we the people should have the right to vote where it concerns our personal lives and according to our religious beliefs.
Those who oppose have the same rights as all of us as individuals. But the effects of same gender marriages will not only have a religiously negative effect on the purpose of the family, but socially and economically.
I am hoping those who we voted into office will hear the people's voices, and that this vote will be counted, not only concerning the measure, but our right to decide.
And how is it that we decided before, ignored, and now our representatives, are going to decide again for us? We're told our votes are important, but is it?

From: Amy Tano
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:36:20 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Amy Tano
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From:	Laura Stice
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	S.B. No. 1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:35:55 AM

I fully support this act of marriage equality to recognize equal rights for same sex marriages.

Please pass this act.

Mahalo,
Laura Stice

470 Ulumalu Rd.
Haiku, HI 96708
808-281-7730 Cell
808-572-0975 Home and Fax

From: Dale Head
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:32:06 AM

Re: Testimony in support of SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha Chair Clayton Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support of SB 1** for marriage equality in Hawai'i.
Hawai'i has been on the forefront of Aloha and civil rights in the United States including the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, nondiscrimination clauses for employment and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and Civil Unions. Now is the time for Hawai'i to pass the marriage equality bill granting marriage rights to same gender couples. The U. S. Supreme Court struck down DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act) which allows married same sex couples in those states that have marriage equality to obtain the federal marriage benefits (over 1000) that are already granted to opposite sex married couples. Also, married same sex couples in military will also receive the federal benefits of marriage, which is significant in Hawai'i with its many military installations throughout the state.

I am a Gay Catholic USAF Veteran man, who has been with my life partner, a Gay USA Vietnam Veteran for over 36 years. We are Reciprocal Beneficiaries, receiving our certificate in 2005. We went to Iowa this past June to get Married, where it is Legal. We hope to finally gain the recognition of our love and commitment and be granted the rights and responsibilities of marriage already granted to opposite sex married couples here, too. Being a Disable Retired Veteran, I do plan to get full Veteran Spousal Benefits for my spouse shortly. I am also a member of Dignity Honolulu, the local chapter of Dignity USA for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Catholics and their friends and supporters. Dignity USA has been consistent in its support for equal rights for LGBT people, through its membership in the coalition called, Equally Blessed, with the partners, New Ways Ministry, Call to Action, and Fortunate Families. These groups are progressive Catholic groups that support marriage equality because of their support for social justice issues which relate to our faith.

Again, I urge you to support SB 1 on marriage equality for the people of Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Leonard J Cadavona
85-175 Farrington Hwy., # C4278
Waianae, Hi 96792

From: lisa cuthrell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:32:04 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

lisa cuthrell
1526 Pensacola st
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Emile Alano
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:31:18 AM

Emile C. Alano
Honolulu, HI 96822

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will not be present to personally deliver my testimony.

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because of the following reasons:

1. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
2. It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
3. It re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage.
4. It fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits.
5. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits.
6. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members from lawsuits.
7. It extends parentage rights that would transfer Native Hawaiian ethnicity to non-Native Hawaiian individuals.
8. It provides that same-sex couples married in the State, but who do not live in Hawaii, the right to return to Hawaii courts for divorce, annulment and separation proceedings. Hawaii taxpayers will be paying for these costs.
9. It will introduce new educational curriculum for K-12 grades that will present same-sex marriages and relationships to school children and youth.
10. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and a woman in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute

of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively.

11. Its effective date of November 18, 2013 does not give sufficient time for the State of Hawaii to change processes, policies and practices to abide by the new law and puts the State at risk for lawsuits because it will not be able to comply with the new law.
12. It is fast-tracked through a process that does not offer Neighbor Island individuals the opportunity to present testimony in person.
13. It will not be referred to other appropriate legislative committees who are responsible to the citizens of Hawaii to vet legislation. It should be referred to the following committees: Hawaiian Affairs, Tourism and Hawaiian Affairs, Human Services, Finance. Education and Consumer Protection and Commerce. Citizens and stakeholders will not be able to testify in these committees to inform lawmakers about the far-reaching societal, economic and operational impact of the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.
14. It does not provide a way to finance implementation costs to the State nor individual counties if the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.
15. It excludes other types of couples (ie. related individuals) from legal marriage while granting certain rights and benefits that are presently only available to married couples to them. These couples will have legal standing to challenge the law.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Emile C. Alano
Hawaii Voter

From: Steve Bobilin
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: In support of SB1 - Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:30:15 AM

Dear Committee members,

I urge you to support equal marriage rights for all people. I have been married for 20 years and my wife and I are blessed with two children.

Our family values include love, faith, and compassion for others. Our family values will not in any way be diminished by allowing same-sex marriages.

How sad that some folks in our community feel the need to impose their personal religious beliefs on people who seem different from them.

Be brave and do the right thing. Support marriage equality and pass SB 1.

Steve Bobilin
Pearl City
Ph. 456-1221

From: Oscar Alvarado
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:26:13 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Oscar Alvarado
44-306 Olina St Apt 2
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Ray McDonald
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:25:19 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ray McDonald
44-306 Olina St Apt 2
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: jennifer Snyder
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:22:45 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

jennifer Snyder
Box 146
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: jennifer Snyder
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:22:40 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

jennifer Snyder
Box 146
Kamuela, HI 96743

From: Nathan Dwyer
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strongly support SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:19:32 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

My partner of 23 years and I, along with hundred of other gay and lesbian couples in Hawai`i, have waited long enough to be treated equally before the law. Twenty years of debate has generally shown that this is simply an issue of bigotry versus fairness.

It's time.

Please quickly pass this bill to allow for marriage equity for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Nathan Dwyer
1521 Punahou St. #701
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Judy Taggerty
To: Judy Taggerty; JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Fwd: Same Sex Marriage, Let the People Decide Please: Testimony
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:18:17 AM

From: Judy Taggerty [mailto:kjtagon19@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:31 PM
To: jdltestimony-writtenonly@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: Same Sex Marriage, Let the People Decide Please: Testimony

Senate House Chair Honorable Clayton Hee
Karl Rhoades, House Chair Judiciary Committee
Sylvia Luke, House Chair Finance Committee

Dear Honorable Hawai'i State Leaders,

Same Sex Marriage is such an important issue it should not be done in Hast. This is something that will have a lasting impact on Hawai'i Nei, our Ohana and Keiki. Same Sex Marriage can not be taken lightly, as this is changing something that has been tradition for thousands of years, one man and one women. Kind of pulling the rug out from underneath us.

The Bill for an Act Revised 09/09/13 connected to SB1 only benefits Same sex couples, NO ONE ELSE. Everyone one in the state will be walking on egg shells so no one upsets the gay community or possible law suites which this Bill will give them legal rights to take action against anyone they are not happy with.

A few months ago we had another huge AIDS outbreak in Kona within the Homosexual community, this is a serious Health Concern.

The gay movement has been trying to get the Dept of Health to accept a gay persons blood, as they have not up til now. If the DOH accepts their blood then the gays will be deemed normal and acceptable, the same label they want for Same Sex Marriage, when it clearly is not the same.

Civil Unions give benefits. If a gay couple really wants to wed then they can go to a state that does Same Sex Marriages, and come back with the total package.

There was a gay pride parade in Kailua-Kona a few years ago where the gay participants gave condoms to little children whose parents were OUTRAGED. I don't think the gay parade will be coming back to Kona unless Same Sex Marriage is passed.

These are a few concerns, the main concern is to PROTECT OUR CHILDREN. Adults have choices, they can chose the life they want to live, our children should be PROTECTED, allow them to be innocent children.

Mahalo for your time. I believe you will do what is best for Hawai'i and it's people.

I'm a Registered voter and legal resident of the Big Island of Hawai'i.

Judy Taggerty

73-1065 Loloa Drive

Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
(808) 325-6551

From: Luke Campbell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: I oppose same sex marriage - please do likewise
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:12:51 AM

All,

I oppose any same sex marriage bill because of the facts; not my opinion, or other's opinions. There are two facts which oppose same sex marriage, and no facts which would support same sex marriage as "good" for society or "good" for a person:

1- Marriage is a choice - not a "right" - and was established by God as a covenant between Him, one man, and one woman. The state has no authority or business redefining God's work, which is a key component to the church.

God says "NO" to homosexuality and practicing that sin over 100 times in the Bible: There are no "maybe's", or "if's". Why 100 times "NO"? Because the adoption of homosexuality is so terribly destructive to society, detrimental to the family, and ironically, repugnant and destructive even to those who practice the sin.

2- On the other hand, for those who are not comfortable supporting America's Judeo-Christian morals and laws - and is THE reason America has been the only nation in history to be called "exceptional" - please review, and please enlighten yourselves regarding the facts of recorded history.

Whether ancient history of Rome or Greece, or modern history of Germany in the early 1900s - whenever homosexuality is adopted by society, the society decays and falls. It is a major component to the destruction of society - because it decays the very cornerstone of society - which is the family.

By the early 1900s, many major cities in Germany were overtaken with homosexuality, and the entire world knew of "the German vice". It was in homosexual bars where Adolf Hitler recruited his "generals". People such as Goebbels, Goering, Himmler, Roem, Keitel, Brauchtisch, and their aids - over 95% of the German high command - were homosexual. Ironically, these "butch" homosexuals persecuted their own kind - the "femme" homosexuals .. and laid waste to all of Europe. 60 million died to get rid of that thinking.

Additional facts of the terrors of homosexuality are found in those states which have adopted the homosexual sin. For example, please review what has happened in Massachusetts in the 10 years since they adopted the sin in 20003. Today in Massachusetts:

> the state now publishes pornographic materials for Middle and High School kids. One example: a link to the so called "Little Black Book" published by the state:
http://www.massresistance.org/docs/issues/black_book/black_book_inside.html

> allows vandalism and hoodlums to run wild and unchecked against any place (including churches) or organizations who speak against homosexuality,

> is working on laws supporting sodomy and incest.

This is just the beginning of the downfall - the tip of the iceberg.

Homosexuals may want to be married, and they may want to have children - but these are their desires, not their needs .. and these desires are destructive to the family and society as a whole - and ultimately, destructive to themselves. Wants do not make “equality”.
Homosexuality has nothing to do with “civil rights” because marriage is a choice, not a right; people do not have a “right” to be married. And homosexuality is likewise.

When dealing with subjects of right and wrong, please consider the facts, not the opinions.
Moral relativism and emotion are not good reasons for making a law.

PLEASE OPPOSE ANY FORM OF SAME SEX MARRIAGE.

Luke Campbell
Kihei, Hawaii
240-587-1637

From: Dora Baldwin
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:10:09 AM

Committee On Judiciary And Labor

SB1

October 28, 2013, 10:30am

Will not testify in person, but want it on the record.

Dear Chair Hee and committee members, my name is Doralynn Baldwin. I have been a registered voter for many years. I believe in the democratic process, however the way this bill is being looked at among the legislators in this special session is anything BUT democratic! Let the record show that I strongly oppose SB 1. In 1998 the people unanimously voted in favor of defining marriage as to one man and one woman, which is to say they were against same sex marriage. There was a clause that was not known by the people which stated that you our legislators would have the power in the future to decide on this important issue. I personally feel this power is being abused. Simply put "BLESS THE FEW and PUNISH the MAJORITY." Currently this bill provides no protection, 1) For our religious freedom 2) For businesses large and small 3) Our educational system as relating to our keiki and future keiki as to what they will learn. Please know that I am not a bigot, hater or homophobic. I have lots of aloha for my family and friends who support this bill and yes we may respectfully disagree but this does not in any way shape or form make me a discriminator and I should not be punished for my convictions. I ask each of you to search your hearts and allow the people to make this important decision through the proper democratic way. May God bless each one of you and your families and I extend my prayers on behalf of all involved in this great undertaking.

Mahalo Nui

Your Contituent,
Doralynn Baldwin

229 Kapalu St.
Honolulu, HI
96813

From: Brandon Boi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: I support Marriage Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:09:46 AM

Please vote in favor of Marriage Equality so we can access the same rights as others. I would like to marry my partner of 12 years at home in Hawaii so all our friends & family can witness our commitment.

Much Aloha, Brandon

From: Dr. Elizabeth and Bran-D Foster Heckman
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Very Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:09:37 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dr. Elizabeth and Bran-D Foster Heckman
2507A Rainbow Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

From: Chun Robyn
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: In support of SB1 - Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:01:58 AM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in support of SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights (Marriage Equality Act).

Like so many Americans, my own awareness of the way we have mistreated and discriminated against a part of our citizenry has been a long time in coming. I have not felt compelled to say anything, because I was not conscious that what concerns my neighbors is also my concern or that my silence would in effect be noted as wish to perpetuate the current law. And, I did not know that it was important for me to care for and affirm their rights in this way, by speaking out publicly on their behalf until a colleague asked me to send my testimony. It has taken the courage of people I know and care about; relatives, friends, colleagues; for me to put a face to what I see on TV and hear about in the news. There are brave, caring, decent people who contribute to our community and ask for the same rights that I have with my husband of 20 years, the right to be recognized, acknowledged and respected by law.

There are all kinds of people an each has a right to his or her own beliefs, religious or otherwise. It seems to me that this right ends where it begins to dictate the legitimacy of the choices of another human being. We have historically righted many laws that discriminate against race and gender. This situation bears similarity. No one should be stigmatized or discriminated against as a result of whom he or she chooses for a partner. Who each of us chooses to love and build a life with is a basic human right.

Hawai'i is a state where we have long trumpeted tolerance and the ability to co-exist in harmony. I am not gay. But, I know people, good people, who I care about that are brave enough to let me know they are gay and that they are hurt by the current laws. I ask that you support this bill because until each of us is seen as equal under the law, we are perpetuating a society where we there is inequity, prejudice and discrimination. Instituting this law is a matter of decency and fairness.

I humbly ask that you support the passage of SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights (Marriage Equality Act).

Sincerely yours,
Robyn Chun

From: Katherine Book
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:00:15 AM

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

I am writing my testimony to voice my opposition to Bill SB1

I am asking you to let the people of Hawaii to decide the issue of same-sex marriage and not the legislature. I also believe in religious freedom. But legislature want to disrespect Bishops, Pastor and Priest. This Bill should be given the time to examined where it could be properly vetted like all other bills. How far are the legislature is going to take this. Let the PEOPLE OF HAWAII have the say. This will be the third time that this issue is brought up and enough is enough. We THE PEOPLE who have elected you should have a say. LET THE PEOPLE DICIDE AND VOTE.

Mahalo Nui Loa

Katherine Naomi Book
229 Kapalu Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

From: Gavon Wong
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Unconstitutional ... same-sex marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:59:21 AM

Aloha,

I am a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (more popurlarly known as "the mormons")

Contrary to popular belief, we put Jesus Christ as the cornerstone of our religion. Thus, the REAL name of our church.

This country was based on Christianity. The constitution was built upon the beliefs in God and now our government is trying every which way to take God out of our country: 1) We can't say the pledge of allegiance in school. 2) We can't the word "Christmas". God is taken out of our countries institutions. WHY?

And now with this same-sex marriage bill, gay and lesbian couples can come to ANY religion/church and demand ceremonies to be performed. Most religions have strong family values and study the Bible. In the scriptures it says that marriage is between a MAN and a WOMAN. Most religions will refuse to marry a gay or lesbian couple based on that principle and value.

However, if that church stands up for their beliefs in traditional marriage, that church can be shut down and/or sued by the gay or lesbian couple.

What freedom is that? As a heterosexual christian male I refuse for this to happen.

THIS GOES AGAINST THE AMENDMENT FOR FREEDOM OF RELIGION.

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT IN DENYING MY FREEDOM OF RELIGION.

There are many more individuals who feel strongly about this like me.

Do not take away my freedom to believe in God. Do not take away family values. The majority has spoken about this issue many times and has TURNED DOWN SAME SEX MARRIAGE. And your government constantly brings the issue up. The people have spoken about this. The majority DOESN'T WANT THIS.

Are you going to listen to the people? Are you really trying to serve the people? Are you really concern about our welfare? Do you even care about the people?

G

From: Mary Pung
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:55:11 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mary Pung
46-255 kahuhipa st.
ph 3
kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Dennis
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: *****SPAM***** Same Sex Marriage.
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:55:11 AM

I am AGAINST SAME SEX Marriage.

Dennis Young
(808) 677 8785 phone
(808) 721 9762 cell
(808) 677 1972 fax
dennis@hawaiitents.com

From: Sarah Vinson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:53:20 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

My partner of eleven years and I want to get married but we are waiting for Hawaii to pass marriage equality laws so we can make that a reality. Many people have asked us why we don't just fly to California or somewhere on the mainland where it's already legal so we don't have to wait anymore. Our response is always the same: Hawaii is our home. We want to marry the person we love the most in the place we love most.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sarah Vinson
91-1040 Opuku Street
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: Donald Baldwin Jr.
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Donald Baldwin jr.
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:50:19 AM

Committee On Judiciary And Labor

SB1

October 28, 2013, 10:30am

Will not testify in person, but want it on the record.

Aloha Chairman Hee and committee members. My name is Don W. Baldwin Jr. Mahalo for your years of service. I appreciate the opportunity to offer my heart felt testimony on this sensitive and passionate issue relating to SB1. First and foremost let me state for the record that I strongly oppose this bill. Having said this, it does not make me a hater/homophobic or one who shows no love, respect or aloha for our brothers and sisters and ohana with close ties who support the bill. After reviewing it I believe they have all benefits from civil union that was passed by the governor in 2011.

I was appalled that there was really no protection for religious freedom only vague words if I may put it bluntly. Secondly the protection for businesses small and large. And more importantly my biggest question and concern to all of you, where is the protection for our keiki and their future keiki when it comes to the educational system and what will be taught? Now the process to which this is going through truly disappoints me. I quote the phrase "FAST AND FURIOUS," has the democratic process gone out of door? Did we the people not put you where you're to listen and act on our greatest concerns to which this is one of them. We expressed our voice in 1998 and if it needs be should have the opportunity in all fairness to do it again. Don't you agree that's the democratic way. Let's not rush the process only to witness the grave repercussions and consequences that will be evident now and in the future. Examples can be learned from parts of Canada and the state of Massachusetts. I urge you to search your hearts, remember our keiki and do the right thing. Again mahalo for all you do and God bless each of you and your families.

Respectfully Your Constituent
Don W. Baldwin Jr.

From: Christopher Frendreis
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:48:56 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

It is unfair and unjust to have the rights of a minority controlled, denied or altered by a bigoted unenlightened majority. Discrimination can not be justified, It is incumbent on the government to provide and protect equal liberties and freedoms for all people. I love my husband as much as any hetero-sexual person loves their spouse. Our lives are equal in every way to a heterosexual married couple's. Our marriage, our love for each other and our life together is ours and ours alone. Recognizing our marriage in full only helps to protect our basic liberties and dignities. It is impossible that allowing us to marry would have an adverse effect on any anyone else. Literally impossible. If they are affected it is because of who they are and how they perceive things to be. However, denying us that ability effects us profoundly in many ways. There is truly only one answer here and that is to provide and protect marriage equality for all loving committed couples who desire to enter into a contract of binding love, faith, commitment and respect. Regardless of what you do today, my husband and I ARE married. We are married in our eyes, the eyes of our friends and family and all who know us. (We are also legally married by the equality driven state of Californis. The question is not whether we are married. The question is whether we are married and living in a land that protects our rights or married and living in a land that lets the majority discriminate against us and degrade the thing that we hold most dear in our hearts, our love and our life together.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii’s families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Christopher Frendreis
3672 Diamond Head Circle
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Linda Tsui
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:44:29 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Linda Tsui
816 Koko Isle Circle
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Abraham Yi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: bigotry in the guise of religion is still bigotry.
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:43:49 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Abraham Yi
310 N. Cane St.
Wahiawa, HI 96786

From: Ualani Mo"o
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Opposed to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:43:19 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Marseilles Mo'o and I am a resident of Laie. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I am a long time resident of Laie and have lived here since 1970. Before that, I attended the Church College of Hawaii (now Brigham Young University-Hawaii) for four years. I have four children who were raised here and raising their families here as well. I love my life and living here in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act**. Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Marseilles Mo'o

From: Melissa Kuloloio
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:42:28 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Melissa Kuloloio
326 Piliwale road
Kula, HI 96790

From: Ualani Mo"o
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: OPPOSED to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:39:56 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Gary Nagy Jr. and I am a resident of Laie. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I was raised here in Laie since 1995, I am now serving in the United States Air Force, I am married to a young woman from Kaaawa. We have a baby girl. I love living in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act**. Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Gary Wayne Nagy, Jr.

From: Ualani Mo"o
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: OPPOSED to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:36:57 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Tamanui Nagy and I am a resident of Laie. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I was born and raised in Hawaii. I love my life and living here in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act**. Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Tamanui Tekaha Victor Nagy

From:	Ualani Mo"o
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	OPPOSED to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:34:07 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Tainui Nagy and I am a resident of Laie. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I have been raised in Laie since 1995. I love my life and living here in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act**. Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Spencer Tainui Nagy

From: Ualani Mo"o
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: OPPOSED to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:32:02 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Gary Nagy and I am a resident of Wahiawa. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I am a long time resident of Hawaii and have lived here for since 1995. I have four children who were raised and still being raised here. I love my life and living here in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act**. Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Gary Wayne Nagy

From: Ualani Mo"o
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: OPPOSED to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:29:58 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Ualani Mo'o Nagy and I am a resident of Laie. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I am a long time resident of Laie and have lived here for over 35 years. I have four children who were raised and still being raised here. I love my life and living here in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act**. Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Gary Wayne Nagy, Jr.

From: Ualani Mo"o
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: OPPOSED to SB1 (Marriage Equality Act)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:27:39 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senator Hee and Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1

October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

My name is Ualani Mo'o Nagy and I am a resident of Laie. **I am opposed to the proposed Marriage Equality Act.** I am a long time resident of Laie and have lived here for over 35 years. I have four children who were raised and still being raised here. I love my life and living here in Paradise.

I value traditional marriage as a union between a man and a woman as well as our 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I believe that a marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children, families and society. Protecting traditional marriage and our religious freedom are fundamental to successful families and a strong society.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons: This bill fails to protect my religious freedom. This bill does not fully protect religious institutions, properties and churches when it comes to same-sex celebrations, goods and services. This bill does not protect individual rights, it forces individuals and small businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs. This bill does not protect religious parents to remove their children from classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of traditional marriage. If we do not comply with these requests, we will be fined, arrested or ostracized for our religious beliefs. If this bill is passed, we are forced to accept the moral rights and beliefs of homosexuals as being normal in society.

I strongly urge you to **please vote NO to the proposed Marriage Equality Act**. Thank you for all your service.

Sincerely,

Tamanui Tekaha Victor Nagy

From: Mark Smith
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Marriage Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:57:54 AM

I fully support marriage equality in Hawaii. My partner Steve and I have been together for 14 years and it has been the most amazing 14 years of my life. I couldn't be happier and its time we as a society fully embrace equality for everyone.

Mahalo,

Mark Smith

From: hook@hawaii.rr.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Supports same sex marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:59:57 AM

I support same sex marriage to eliminate marriage discrimination in Hawaii!

From: Barbara Jo Makaea
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Same sex marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:59:59 AM

Aloha

In regard to the same sex marriage issue being heard in a special session, I believe is against a true democratic government.

5 days to decide something that is so monumental, why is there such a rush. It is not a life or death situation. If it is so critical, why aren't other states rushing to special sessions?
The people have a right to be heard. The outer island people should have public meetings available on each island to voice their question and concerns. The people should have ample time to give their input.

We voted on a ballot question in 1998, why not let the people vote on this same issue again? The people have the right to have the final say.
Marriage is not a civil right and not a single court in the USA has stated that it is.

Finally, our US Constitution, gives the church protections from being legislated as to what they should believe or what they have to allow in the church even if it's against something the church disagrees with. That is not pono.
LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON Same sex marriage.

Thank you
B J Makaea

From: robert riley
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: RE: SB 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:00:03 AM

Date: October 27, 2013

TO: Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Lourene and Robert Riley
15-1802 Akala Avenue / Kea'au

RE: SB 1

Gentlemen:

1. We urge you to vote "NO" on SB 1 redefining marriage, the bedrock of our civilization.
2. This Special Session has been rushed, and does not afford the people of Hawaii the opportunity to be adequately informed about the consequences of this step that reverses a thousand generations of traditional marriage.
3. **The people of Hawaii should be the deciders of this transformative legislation, not the few members of the Hawaiian legislature - after they have been duly informed to make such a monumental decision.**
4. The consequences of this legislation has serious consequences throughout our society and must not be entered into without careful and extensive consideration, gaining perspective by studying the effects experienced in other states and even in Canada.
5. We believe that after careful examination of the consequences of this legislation, any thinking person or legislator would come to the conclusion that this step is unwise.
6. Even though our culture has derided the authority of God's word, nevertheless, it stands as a bastion of truth, and directions for living here on earth, and should not be ignored by anyone, or group.

Respectively,

Robert & Lourene Riley

I

From: Burke Holbrook
To: nancy holbrook; JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: In Opposition to S.B, 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:00:04 AM

Burke Holbrook
2310 Oahu Ave
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it fails to protect our rights as defined by the United States Bill of Rights. This bill fails to protect our 1st Amendment Right of Freedom of Religion. It fails to protect churches, clergy, religious group and temples from lawsuits. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits. And it denies business owners protection of their 1st Amendment Right of Freedom of Religion.

There is no reason that this bill should fast tracked through a special session that circumvents discussion, particularly input from neighboring islands and examining in detail the impact on **ALL** the people of Hawaii.

I urge you to sop this bill and listen to Hawaaii's people.

Thanks you for your consideration,
Burke Holbrook

From:	Steve Magan
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Marriage equality
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:00:30 AM

I support Marriage equality. I have been with my partner for 14 years and we should not have to use work around methods like Power of Attonery to get the same benefits straight couples take for granted. Please make marriage equal in the eyes of the law in Hawaii.

Thank you,

Steve

Stephen L. Magan Jr.
magans001@hawaii.rr.com
808-348-1496

From:	Judi Mellon
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality/Same Sex Marriage
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:00:30 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I want my voice of opposition to be heard on the issue of equality/same sex marriage in SB1. I am opposed to this being approved in a special session. I plead with you to let the people vote in this very important issue. Do not decide this in a special session. This bill does not respect or protect religious freedom or other reasons why people do want same sex marriage in the beautiful state of Hawaii.

I am very concerned about how this issue will effect the future of our state, our families, our businesses and our houses of worship. There is absolutely no reason to rush this issue.

Please protect the future for our children and grandchildren.

Respectfully,
Judi Mellon
Hilo, Hawaii
208-316-2657

From: dmisae@aol.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to S.B. 1.
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:00:32 AM

October 27, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
and Members
Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Hee and Committee Members:

My name is Debbie Luning. I am writing to express my opposition to S.B. 1 as drafted.

I contemplated long and hard on whether or not to testify on this measure because by opposing it, many of my friends and relatives who are gay (or who have friends and relatives who are) may think that I don't like/love them as individuals. That is *not* the case and I don't want my opposition to this measure to be misconstrued as my dislike toward any of them personally. I also do not want anyone to think that I am trying to pass judgment on anyone because I believe that we are *all* sinners in the eyes of the Lord. There are no exceptions. I also believe that we all need to take the "logs out of our own eyes" and to be a more loving and compassionate society if we want to see the kingdom of God come to our island State and for our land to be perpetuated in righteousness.

I've decided to submit my testimony because I strongly believe that the bill, as currently drafted, is flawed and does NOT provide the "equality" it seeks. While I would prefer to see the public decide on this important issue, I also sense that this bill, in some form, will likely be passed during this Special Session. That being the case, we need to make sure that any form of the bill that passes also provides equality and protection to those who desire to be God's "remnant," i.e. those who desire to follow his commandments and who strive to do His Will on earth. S.B. 1 in its current form does not provide this protection.

I am especially opposed to section 572-F of the bill which penalizes religious organizations that refuse to make their facilities or grounds available for gay marriage ceremonies if they allow their facilities or their grounds to be used by the general public for marriage ceremonies for a profit. I believe that churches and places of worship should be able to decide on whether the marriages to be performed in their facilities fall in line with their religious beliefs. The provision in this bill, as drafted, is patently unfair and I urge you to support amendments to rectify this injustice.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Sincerely,

Debra M. A. Luning

From: Chelsey Rodrigues
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:07:52 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Chelsey Rodrigues
319 Kenolio Road
Kihei, HI 96753

From:	Chad Apigo
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	SB1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:07:54 AM

I oppose SB1 thank you

Sent from my iPhone

From: Amy Vasconcellos
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:09:26 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Amy Vasconcellos
7248 Waiopua Street
Honolulu, HI 96825

From: Carrie
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony for The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:10:01 AM

Carrie Juntilla
91-533 Kuhialoko St.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

1. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
2. It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
3. It re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage.
4. It fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits.
5. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits.

Please do not take away my rights to practice what I believe in. Please Choose the Right and vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Mahalo,

Carrie Juntilla
Hawaii Voter

From: Jeremiah Wegesend
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:12:38 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

I strongly believe that we all should be given the right to vote and no one should be allowed to take the right away from us. I want my children to grow up the way god intended, having 1 man and 1 woman who get married and conceive children of their own to raise up and they will have the same chance to do the same. I strongly disagree with anyone trying to force anyone to do something that is against what they believe in. We are suppose to be "America the Land of the FREE" not the land of the forced. I want my children and grandchildren to grow up with the right morals in life and that does not include having a man and man or woman and woman being married and exposing themselves out to the public with them saying that is it right. Hawaii should remain the beautiful free state that it is currently. I ask you all to take the time to think how this will impact your children and grandchildren's further. It will definitely not be a positive impact as you can see by the other states who have passes the bill where one father went to the school and didn't agree with the school teaching his child that being gay was right and they arrested him and just for your info we had a gay person who identified himself as gay try to run one of the non gay sign waiver off the side of the road with his vehicle. This law is already endangering the lives of our children because there were many children there holding signs when this gentleman decided to do this incriminating act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
Angela Wegesend
Mililani, Hi 96789

From: Mark Kadota
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Marriage Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:13:37 AM

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>
> Through out history and in various cultures there have been institutionalized same-sex unions-Japanese warriors in early modern times-1, Chinese men and women under the Yuan and Ming dynasties-2, Native Americans from a number of tribes (mostly before white domination)-3, many African tribes well into the twentieth century -4, and residents (both male and female) of the Middle East -5, South-East Asia -6, Russia -7, and other parts of Asia -8, and South America -9. In the Western world, Plato characterized same-sex unions very pointedly as permanent, exclusive unions, in the context of myth in the "Symposium".
>
> Even the Bible refers to a covenant made between Jonathan and David in 1 Samuel 18:1, "it came to pass...that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David and Jonathan loved him as his own soul." The two made a "covenant" together (1 Sam. 18:3). After Jonathan was killed, David lamented publicly, "I am distressed for thee, my brother Johnathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women", in 2 Sam. 1:26. Then there is the declared commitment between Ruth and Naomi. "intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for wither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God in Ruth 1:14.
>
>
> 1. See. e.g.,Paul Schalow, "The Great Mirror of Male Love" (Stanford, 1990) esp.pp.27ff
> 2. Bret Hinsch, "Passions of the Cut Sleeve" (Berkeley, 1990), 127-33, 177-78, 194.
> 3. Walter Williams, "The Spirits and the Flesh: Sexual Diversity in American Indian Cuture" (Boston 1986), esp. pp. 94-95, and Will Roscooe‘s beautiful and moving account of We‘wha, a Zuni Berdache, in "The Zuni Man-Woman (Alburquerque, 1991).
> 4. Edward Evans-Pritchard, "The Azande: History and Political Institutions (Oxford, 1971), 199-200; "Sexual Inversion among the Azande," "American Anthropologist" 72 (1970).1429-30, 1432, Henri Junod, "The Life of a South African Tribe (london, 1927), 1:492-94.
> 5. Harold Dickson, "The Arab of the Desert: A Glimpse into Badawin Life in Kuwait and Sau‘di Arabia" (London, 1951), 229,; Georg Steindoff, "Durch die libysche Wuste zur Amonsoase (Bielefeld, 1904, 19; "Mahmud Mohammand ‘Abd Allah, "Siwan Customs, "Harvard Afican Studies 1, (1917), 1-28, p. 20
> 6. John W. Layard, "Stone Men of Malekula" (London, 1942), 487-88, 490, Ralph Linton, "Marquesan Cuture," in Abam Kardiner, "The Individual and His Society: "The Psychodynamics of Primitive Social Organization" (New York, 1839), 174.
> 7. Louis Lubetak, "Marriage and the Family in Caucasia: A Contribution to the Study of North Caucasion Ethnology and Customary Law" (Vienna, 1951), 84.
> 8. Waldemar Jochelson, "Koryak" (Leiden, 1905-8), 32, 754.
> 9. See, e.g., Pero de Magalhaes de Gandavo, "Historia da Provincia Santa Cruz" (Sao Paolo, 1964)
>
> Mark Kadota
> 668-1870
> Waianae

From: Anne Stone
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:13:42 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

if in this country we hold dear the ideals of the separation of church and state, and we support the freedom of religion (or the lack thereof) why then is the State in the business of mandating moral authority based on a set of religious beliefs? Marriage in our country is more than just a moral contract it is a civil one with rights, benefits, and privileges. To deny all citizens access to those rights is inherently unconstitutional to deny those civil benefits on moral/religious grounds is inherently to be against everything this country was founded on.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Anne Stone
47-718 Ahuimanu Loop
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: Max Mooney
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: FW: Marriage Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:14:05 AM

From: maxmooney@hotmail.com
To: writtenonly@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: Marriage Equality
Date: Sun, 27 Oct 2013 10:06:24 -1000

Dear Elected Officials of the State of Hawai'i,

Marriage Equality should be a no-brainer. Since being married affords couples civil benefits in the United States of America, ALL couples should be able to do so. No one group of law-abiding citizens of this country should be discriminated against and denied the benefits to which others have access. It is time to be on the right side of history before it IS history.

Max Mooney
1650 Piikea St
Honolulu, HI 96818
808-781-7050

From: rickawho@gmail.com on behalf of Alicia and Rick
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Written testimony in opposition to SB 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:14:13 AM

To: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Second Special Session of 2013 on SB 1 to be heard October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

This testimony is written only and will not be stated live.

I am writing in opposition to SB 1 because I believe that the statutory language does not provide adequate protection for constitutionally provided religious freedoms. The exemption language currently drafted provides too many gaps that invite years of future litigation over religious liberties as they intersect same-sex marriage rights. Our State is not a position to financially support the problems that will inevitably result from a failure to adequately exempt religious organizations and individuals, nor is it in a position to judicially support constitutional litigation related to SB 1.

It is critical that language be included, as has been done in many other states, that will protect churches, religious groups, small businesses, and individuals from litigation that stems directly from conscientious objection based upon religious beliefs or values. Until this has been accomplished and vetted through the normal legislative process (specifically designed to avoid such shortsightedness) I urge you to vote NO on the passage of SB 1.

Mahalo,

Alicia Abelmann

--
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rick
e: rickawho@gmail.com
t: @rickawho

From: Jake Smookler
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:14:48 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

It is NOT they way of "Aloha" to DENY same sex couples from marrying one another and be told that it is ILLEGAL to do so under state law.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jake Smookler
501 Kuanana Street
Paia, HI 96779

From: Dee ann DeMattos
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:14:55 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dee ann DeMattos
3587 Lower Kula Rd
Kula, HI 96790

From: Hawaiian Boy
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:16:34 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SAMPLE HEADER FOR TESTIMONY

Date: Oct. 27, 2013

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

I strongly believe that we all should be given the right to vote and no one should be allowed to take the right away from us. I want my children to grow up the way god intended, having 1 man and 1 woman who get married and conceive children of their own to raise up and they will have the same chance to do the same. I strongly disagree with anyone trying to force anyone to do something that is against what they believe in. We are suppose to be "America the Land of the FREE" not the land of the forced. I want my children and grandchildren to grow up with the right morals in life and that does not include having a man and man or woman and woman being married and exposing themselves out to the public with them saying that is it right. Hawaii should remain the beautiful free state that it is currently. I ask you all to take the time to think how this will impact your children and grandchildren's further. It will definitely not be a positive impact as you can see by the other states who have passes the bill where one father went to the school and didn't agree with the school teaching his child that being gay was right and they arrested him and just for your info we had a gay person who identified himself as gay try to run one of the non gay sign waiver off the side of the road with his vehicle. This law is already endangering the lives of our children because there were many children there holding signs when this gentleman decided to do this incriminating act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
Jeremiah Wegesend
Mililani, Hi 96789

From: Dan Abrahamsson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1, Relating to Equal Rights, in its present form
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:17:48 AM

HONORABLE CHAIRPERSON CLAYTON HEE
HONORABLE VICE-CHAIRPERSON MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE FOR JUDICIARY & LABOR

STRONG SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 1, IN ITS PRESENT FORM,
RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

Saturday, October 26, 2013

My name is Dan Abrahamsson and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in strong support of Senate Bill 1 in its present form before this Committee.

In November 2000, my long time gay male partner of 24 years died of lung cancer. Until he was diagnosed with cancer, 16 months earlier, we lived a wonderful harmonious loving life together. Just like any heterosexual married couple, we enjoyed our relationship of love, planned for our future and for our retirement at old age.

However, there was a big difference at the end. We could not marry, or obtain the many benefits and privileges that heterosexual couples were given for a secured and protected future in old days, simply because we were a same-gender couple. When my partner died, the property and the assets we both had worked and saved so hard for were taxed much higher and differently than if we had had the opportunity to marry. Because my partner's relatives accepted our loving relationship, I was fortunate to be allowed to care for and visit my partner at the hospital during his illness. I was allowed to arrange his funeral according to his own wishes. I know of friends that did not have relatives who were as tolerant as ours. These friends were not allowed to care for or visit their partners, let alone to attend the funeral of their loved one.

The time has come to stop wallowing in antiquated dogmas and superstitions. Attempts to stop the Marriage Equality Bill have nothing to do with legality; they simply respond to uninformed public opinion as well as political and religious ambitions. Gays and lesbians are equal Hawaiian and American citizens and have a right to enjoy the same protection and privileges as anyone else in the Hawaiian and American societies.

From the bottom of my heart, I implore you to support the SB1 in its present form, which will provide gay and lesbian couples, and their families, with a good measure of equal legal rights and privileges when compared to those of married heterosexual couples.

Me ke aloha Pumehana,

Dan Abrahamsson
1607 Quincy Place
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808) 753-6287

Dan Abrahamsson
1607 Quincy Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

From:	Haunani Jones
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Opposition to SB 1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:17:56 AM

I am Keawa'iki Jones from Waihe'e,'Oahu. I am testifying in regards to SB NO 1 and let it be documented that I personally oppose this bill and any fraction thereof. I am taking this stance because the current wording/rights of this Bill would severely damage my church and many other churches-We would have to shut down. Please do not violate our rights, guaranteed by the first amendment- in the name of equality.

I believe that Marriage is between one man and one woman.

I am thankful for this opportunity to share my mana'o with you all in hearing my position, which again is opposition to bill SB NO 1.

Me ka ha'aha'a

Keawa'iki Jones- Age 9
47-469 G Waihe'e Place
Kane'ohe, HI 96744

From: Michelle Fuluvaka
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong opposition to SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:19:20 AM

Aloha Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Michelle Fuluvaka and I represent my family. I am testifying on SB1 and am strongly opposed to SB1 and strongly opposed to having our legislature decide on such an important issue. Their political party and their political careers weigh too heavily on this vote and it is unfair to them and the public to allow them to do so. Let the people decide.

Mahalo,
Michelle Fuluvaka
This represents five registered voters in my family.
808-293-9501

From:	Haunani Jones
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Opposition to Bill SB NO1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:19:39 AM

I am Kingston Jones from Waihe'e,'Oahu. I am testifying in regards to SB NO 1 and let it be documented that I personally oppose this bill and any fraction thereof. I am taking this stance because the current wording/rights of this Bill would severely damage my church and many other churches-We would have to shut down. Please do not violate our rights, guaranteed by the first amendment, in the name of equality.

I believe that Marriage is between one man and one woman.

I am thankful for this opportunity to share my mana'o with you all in hearing my position, which again is opposition to bill SB NO 1.

Me ka ha'aha'a

Kingston Jones-Age 11
47-469 G Waihe'e Place
Kane'ohe, HI 96744

From: Ronald Miller
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: re: THE SENATE THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE INTERIM OF 2013
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:20:05 AM

Aloha!

I am concerned about the legislation being proposed for consideration this month. I would like to see more protections for religious liberty.

For example, currently clergy are protected against having to perform a marriage between same gender participants, but only if they have no history of performing marriages outside their own religion. Many Catholic pastors and LDS Bishops preside over marriages between those from their flock and outside of it. They would be required to marry same gender couples, against their religious standards, if this is the case.

This same protection also does not seem to apply for religious institutions, such that if an institution like Chaminade or BYU-Hawaii desires to open their facilities for use to the community as a service, they can be penalized by being forced to host events that go against their moral standards, such as a reception for same gender marriages.

Similarly, there is rumor that the legislation could even be used against our religious based universities by required that married housing allow anyone who is married (as defined by the state) to live there. This will most likely include same gender couples in the future, again pitting religious institutions' desires to serve the community against their moral standards.

The difficulty as I see it is one of religious freedom. A member of a religion, who believes the religion to be established and informed by God, has no ability to change or alter its precepts to fit the changing government definitions of marriage, nor the wider culture's acceptance of issues like same gender marriage.

While it can be argued that the leaders of religions have the ability to change their doctrines, for the lay member, the choice is a stark one: they must simply choose between the government's laws and the commandments of their God.

I would urge the legislature to have clear, unambiguous protections for clergy, religiously affiliated institutions, and even for business owners to allow them to practice their religion unimpeded.

If needed, the legislature could petition the religions in hopes to change their doctrines, but the law should never be allowed to force citizens to do what their religion and their God has deemed immoral.

Best Regards,

Dr. Ronald Mellado Miller

From: sokkrstud .
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: *****SPAM***** Support for Marriage Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:20:24 AM

I am in support of gay marriage as I am a gay man who is engaged to my fiancee and would like to get married here in beautiful Hawaii. Not supporting gay marriage is a violation of one's civil rights, and will only affirm that Hawaii is in support of denying rights to those who would like to marry the ones they love. Please do not be one of the states willing to deny people their rights, in the same fashion that black and other non-white Americans were denied their basic rights prior to the advancements made after the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. Mahalo.

From: Stacy Miyatake
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Say yes to SB1 Please
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:21:12 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I believe our state doesn't protect modern family units to it's fullest potential. My husband and I (because we were recently married in California) have been together for seven years. We're graduates of UH Manoa. I am a 26 year old middle school teacher here on the big island, and as soon as my husband is finished with Law School in California, he will be here in Hawaii Again.

Our future plans and desires are to start a family, own a house, have a dog, and just enjoy our life together. We want things that everyone else wants. I want to become a great college professor teaching teachers at UH Manoa, he would eventually love to work at the state capitol as a representative. We have dreams and aspirations that will benefit Hawaii as a whole, but we can't stand by and see our state tell us we're not equal.

Please vote yes for SB1. For me. For everyone.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Stacy Miyatake
731217 Melomelo St
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

From: Rose Vea
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Vote NO against the Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:22:28 AM

My name is Roseanne Vea and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Roseanne Vea

From: Michael Baysa
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Senate Bill 1 Testimonial
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:23:15 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

<!--[if !supportLineBreakNewLine]-->
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My name is Michael Baysa and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am **OPPOSED** to Senate Bill 1 (SB1) because of the inadequate protection provided to religious institutions, other religion-based organizations, and individuals and businesses seeking to follow their morale conscience.

After analyzing the bill in detail, I found that only two limited forms of religious protection were provided throughout the bill. According to Senate Bill 1 Page 2 Lines 11-22 and Page 5 Line 16 – Page 6 Line 18, the only religious protections provided are: (1) Only clergy and officers of religious organizations can refuse to solemnize any marriage without legal retribution and (2) Only religious organizations who do NOT earn profit by providing their grounds to the general public can refuse to make their grounds available for solemnization of any marriage celebration without legal retribution.

This bill constitutes inadequate religious freedom protection in most other scenarios outside of what is mentioned in the bill. Of the many conflicts suppressing free expression of religion which will arise, three of the most prominent that I would like to point out will be (1) religious organizations who open their facilities to the public while earning any amount of profit on their general public events being subject to legal penalties for refusing to provide their facilities to those who act contrary to the organization's morale standards, (2) religious organizations and charities, such as adoption agencies, who will be forced to acknowledge and provide services for activities which are contrary to their morale conscience, and (3) business leader's legal inability under the proposed law to follow their morale conscience and refuse to participate in events they believe should not be supported.

For the first conflict addressed, religious organizations who open their facilities to the public

while earning any amount of profit on their general public events being subject to legal penalties for refusing to provide their facilities or materials to those who act contrary to the organization's morale standards, it is my firm belief that the protection of freedom of religion **must** protect every religious organization's rights to ensure that the facilities they own are used **only** in manners that are agreeable and acceptable to that religious organization, **whether or not** the use of those facilities or materials results in the organization earning a profit. Each religious organization must be allowed the right to choose how their facilities and materials are used, and no other parties should have the right to force a religious organization to use their facilities in a manner contrary to their conscience under threat of legal penalty.

Under the second conflict addressed, religious organizations and charities (such as adoption agencies) who will be forced to acknowledge and provide services for activities which are contrary to their morale conscience, SB1 provides no protection whatsoever. Similar to the previous conflict mentioned, the protections from freedom of religion **must** be extended to the operations of **all** religious organizations. In the example of the adoption agency of a religious organization, that organization should not face any penalties stemming from the exercise of their religious beliefs in seeking to place a child into the best home that conforms with the organizations morale guidelines. All religious organizations of any kind are entitled to the exercise of their religious convictions as they seek to do that which they deem good for the betterment of society, and SB1 provides no protection to this entitlement.

Under the third conflict mentioned, business leader's legal inability under the proposed law to follow their morale conscience and refuse to participate in events they believe should not be supported, SB1 provides no protection for both the freedom of speech and the freedom of the exercise of religion for those seeking to follow their morale conscience in the work that they do. This has become an especially important matter as has been shown throughout the nation recently, with incidents such as legal actions as well as other forms of retaliation against those who refuse to do business with those who would act contrary to the morale convictions of the business owner. While I firmly believe that everyone must be respected for their varying opinions and beliefs, I believe that it is both **constitutionally and morally wrong** to penalize any individual or business that acts to follow their morale conscience.

The free exercise of religion was an important addition as the very first amendment to the constitution instituted by the founders of our country. According to this, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." This amendment applies also to the state of Hawaii, and it is my firm belief that no law should be passed by the state which would restrict religious liberty in any way, shape, or form.

I would like to reiterate that I am **AGAINST** Senate Bill 1, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Mahalo,

Michael Baysa

From: nathan fuluvaka
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Opposed to SB-1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:23:45 AM

My name is Nathan Fuluvaka representing my family
SB-1
I am testifying against/ in opposition to legalizing same-sex marriage.

I strongly oppose this act in legalizing same-sex marriage. It makes a moral wrong into a civil right and violates natural law. What God set in place cannot be voted on. This will be unfair to children adopted into these same sex couples lives, as it denies them a mother and a father. If we become accepting to this then what happens when pedophiles start protesting for their rights? What happens when the animal lover wants to marry his or her dog? Although the idea seems far fetched, same sex marriage was a far fetched idea to Gov. Abercrombie when he was asked by mayor Mufi Hannemann when he said it would never be an issue. Yet due to him this meeting is in session. By allowing this is a gateway for more bad things to take place. if you truly do what is right and not what will gain political favor then you will vote against this bill also. It is unfair to the majority of us.
I am firmly against the legalization of gay marriage

Thank you,
Nathan Fuluvaka

From: Eldean Kukahiko
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Same Sex Marriage - I Am Opposed
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:24:06 AM

Thank you for all that you do for our beautiful state of Hawaii. I ask today that you allow us, the people of this great state, to make the choice in regards to same sex marriage. My rights are being taken away as a citizen of this state by your decision to move forward without allowing me to make my own decision. It is not fair that you base your decision on your personal opinion. This is a matter that will affect everyone. Allow us, as a people, to decide what WE believe is best for us & our children, not what you believe personally what is best.

Sincerely,

Christina Kamalii

From: yolanda kikawa
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Vote NO on bill SB 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:24:32 AM

I am a voter in this State of Hawaii and I am also a teacher of 25 years. I am asking you to vote no on this SB 1 bill regarding Same Sex Marriage.
Aloha,
Yolanda Kikawa

Sent from my iPhone

From:	Shade
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Gay propel are human as well
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:25:26 AM

I'm for gay marriage, why should we stop two people from doing something that would symbolize a part of their love? Think about how much money this can possibly bring to Hawaii!!? Who doesn't want to form to Hawaii better yet who doesn't want to show off they got married or honeymooned in Hawaii!?:)
Let's just pass this bill!
N.Vaughan
"Be true to yourself"

From: Doreen Braz
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Cc: priority_one@acninc.net
Subject: Same sex marriage testimony - I am opposed
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:26:11 AM

Aloha,

My name is Joe Secchiroli a resident of Kaneohe, HI. While not typically very politically involved I am very moved by the lack of concern by you our legislators for your willingness to move forward without taking the time to really examine the ramifications of passing the same sex marriage bill. I like most like citizens have a respect for our government. However this is appalling to believe that for most of you, you are more willing to follow the flow rather than to stand for what is right and for the majority of your citizens. What has become of us. I like most people of this country love all people and do not condemn. We are a country founded on solid Christian principles. Let us not forget. Please wait and do this right – For the majority of the People!

Joseph J. Secchiaroli
478-6238

From: Michelle Reyes
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:26:45 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

First of all I just want to reminded everyone that Hawaii is already "marrying" same sex citizens, it may only be civil union but it's one step closer to a legal marriage. I don't see why we just can't go all the way with it.

Passing the same sex marriage bill will do more good than harm, for one Hawaii will attract more people to come and get married here because it's just a beautiful place to tie the knot. More tourist means more business activities, which means more money coming in than going out.

I'm speaking as a young lady that is a working college student who sees no harm in letting PEOPLE marry. Everyone is putting more effort into trying to stop this than stop world hunger, war or any other PROBLEMS we are all currently facing.

Letting PEOPLE get married is not a problem, the economy is a problem, terrorist is a problem, overpopulation is a problem, water scarcity is a problem, poverty is a problem and species extinction is a problem, but letting two fully committed couple say their vows and say I do is not, yet we spend more time, more effort and more money than we should crying about it, complaining, boycotting, and just being down right hating it.

Maybe it's wrong to marry the same gender as you, maybe it's a sin, maybe it really does says on the bible that two women or two men can't marry. But does every single person in this room follow every single thing that the bible says? Did everyone wait to have sexual intercourse with their spouse before they got married? Have any of you gotten a devorse? Has anyone stole money from their moms purse when they were young? Has anyone ever had lustfull thoughts about anyone? Or thought that he should have the whole pie to himself instead of sharing? Because if so then you might want to do a little reevaluation on your belief. And I know for a fact that every single person has done this once if not on a daily basis. And as far as my knowledge on the bible serves me right these are things we are all not supposed to do.

Do not play a saint if you can't fulfill all it's rolls, don't play a messenger if you're just gonna say what you want to hear .Don't just follow what you want to follow on the bible because you think you have the right. Don't think that you can sin because you'll pray after and all is forgiven.

Every single person in this room has no right to say that 'being gay is a sin' because you yourself is a sinner for being a bigot, for being close minded, for disliking certain kinds of people before even meeting them, for wishing them to hell and for other things. It just so happens that our sin makes us happy and not an angry person by the end of the day.

Now as of raising a child as a heterosexual and gay, there is no argument that should be based on that. In my opinion it's based on the person and their perspective on how to raise a child. Invironment has a lot to do with it but just because a kid is living with heterosexuals does not automatically mean they will grow up to be a doctor a lawyer or a firefighter, more than a kid growing up with homosexuals and becoming a thug a drug dealer and a prostitute. It is

solely based on those individuals and not on there sexual preference.

Thank you for giving the time to read my petition, Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Michelle Reyes
98-660 Moanalua lp.
Aiea, HI 96701

From: Ane Vea
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Vote No
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:27:26 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is **Ane Vea** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Ane Vea

From: Karen
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:27:30 AM

I am a registered voter in the state of Hawaii. I am writing in opposition to SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights. As a retired educator, I am concerned about the values we will be teaching our students and it's impact on the future of our state. Please vote NO on this bill.

Mahalo,

Karen Kawate

Sent from my iPhone

From: W Kam
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:27:34 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Debra Shigemura
1622 Noelani St
Pearl City HI 96782

From: Tapiaka Vea
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Vote NO against Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:27:52 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is M. Tapiaka Vea and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

M. Tapiaka Vea

From: William Taylor
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:27:58 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

William Taylor
583 Kamoku 3307
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: Kepano Lono
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:28:23 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love.

In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love.

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Kepano Lono
110 kaeleku pl
hana, HI 96713

From: Jaqueline Vallejo
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:28:44 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Jackie. I am 24 years old and I teach middle school math for the DOE. My partner, 26 years old, is a Physical Therapist working at a skilled nursing facility. We have been in a committed and loving relationship for five-and-a-half years and plan on spending the rest of our lives together.

A little about us, we met in college and were together for 2 years before she had to move to the mainland for grad school (there are no Physical Therapy programs in Hawaii). After spending 2.5 years long distance and flying to each other on breaks, internships, and just taking every opportunity to be closer to each other, she finally moved back and we now live together.

Within the last year, we purchased a home and a new car; the home is only under my name, and the car is under her name, yet we both contribute towards equally towards both bills. With marriage equality, our property and assets would be under both our names, legally. Without marriage equality, should one of us pass, our property would not go towards each other despite the fact that we are a couple and just not "legally" married.

As you can see, we are just like any other couple and we deserve the rights and benefits that all other couples have.

The fact that any man and any woman, who have just met each other on a sidewalk and have no romantic interest in each other, can legally get married the next day. Yet, a homosexual couple like me and my partner who have been in a loving and committed relationship for years cannot. I just do not understand how that's "right."

I hope that you find it in yourself to be on the right side of history and choose equality. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jaqueline Vallejo
91-495 Puamaeole Street 38A
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From: Kathryn Dennis
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony in stong support of SB1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:28:53 AM

Dear Chair Hee and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

A vote in favor of the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act is the right vote. Equality for all citizens of the great state of Hawaii is overdue. I have lived on Oahu for more than 8 years, when my partner, who was born and raised in Honolulu and Ewa Beach, and I moved here to care for her ailing parents. We are real people with a real family. We have real struggles and real joys. We deserve the same rights, benefits, protections, and recognition of marriage that today we are denied.

To those legislators who feel they must vote against this bill because of their religious beliefs, I point the concept of separation of church and state. No religion or religious principles should define the rights of a state's people. It's that simple.

Perhaps, you feel you must vote against equality on moral grounds. I submit that one person's morals should not define the rights of another person, as long as no one is harmed. If the right to marry is extended to couples of the same sex, no one is harmed. Meanwhile, thousands of your fellow citizens are hurt regularly because they do not have the same rights and protections of a married couple. If something happens to one partner, the surviving partner misses out on several benefits that have real emotional and financial effect on his or her life. Consider health benefits as another example: one partner cannot provide health coverage for the other or for their children. Yes, we have families with keiki, too. A vote against the rights of gay people is also a vote against children.

Love knows no boundaries. No one deserves second-class citizenship. Will you vote for equality and dignity for all? Or you will you vote with hatred and bigotry?

My partner and I want our relationship to be recognized like all other marriages. We have been together for 15 years. We want the security and protections that other couples enjoy.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all families in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

—kd

--
Kathryn Dennis
Waipahu, HI
geauxkd@gmail.com

From: Eldean Kukahiko
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Same sex marriage - i am opposed
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:29:15 AM

I would like to adk that our governor and the legislator keep our 1st constitution,"keep our traditional marriage.
Edwina Kamalii

From:	barry romero
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:29:20 AM

Barry Romero
46-166 Yacht Club Street
(808) 371-5941
barryinhawaii@yahoo.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear Representatives and Senators of the Committee:

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of our District. I

appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. As my
Representatives and Senators of the Committee, I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote "no" to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights,
to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church
community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to
provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender
marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not
protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that
could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end
important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to
Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional
marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as

others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment.
I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,
Barry E Romero

From: Rose Vea
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Vote NO against the Senate Bill 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:29:22 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Roseanne Vea and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Roseanne Vea

From:	Haunani Jones
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Opposition to SBl NO1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:29:21 AM

I am Ko'iaweikawaihu'ihu'iowaihe'e Jones from Waihe'e,'Oahu. I am testifying in regards to SB NO 1 and let it be documented that I personally oppose this bill and any fraction thereof. I am taking this stance because the current wording/rights of this Bill would severely damage my church and many other churches-We would have to shut down. Please do not violate our rights, guaranteed by the first amendment, in the name of equality.

I believe that Marriage is between one man and one woman.

I am thankful for this opportunity to share my mana'o with you all in hearing my position, which again is opposition to bill SB NO 1.

Me ka ha'aha'a

Ko'iaweikawaihu'ih'uiowaihe'e Jones-Age 1
47-469 G Waihe'e Place
Kane'ohe, HI 96744

1 808 382-9481

From: Everly San Agustin
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:29:24 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB1.

My partner and I have been together for 5 years. Our foundational basis is love. Much like many speak of their soulmates I know I have found mine and of all the things we can attain in our lives, the value of love and it's existence is inevitably undeniable.

My partner and I are full functioning citizens of our state we contribute to society as working citizens, she a teacher- inspiring our future leaders of tomorrow and I -a doctor who works directly with our Kupunas. We share a mortgage and car loan. We fulfill many foundations of a loving marriage and yet all though similar treated very different.

Like love-- Marriage is a basic fundamental right. It exist for the basis of unity between two individuals humans - regardless of gender or race.

I ask that you stand on the right side of history and uphold the fundamentals of love and what makes a family.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Everly San Agustin
91-495 Puamaeole street 38a
Ewa beach, HI 96706

From: Hazel Abraham
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Vote No
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:30:09 AM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is **Hazel L. Abraham** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, i would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Hazel L. Abraham

From:	Eldean Kukahiko
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	same sex marriage - i am opposed
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:30:27 AM

I am opposed, I am for tradional marriage only
Edward Kamalii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: yamadawes@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:28:22 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Wesley Yamada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to Same Sex Marriage. Please consider the innocent Children who have no Voice in this matter. Let the people decide.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: arlenechan206@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:04:54 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Arlene Chan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am 15 years old, and I don't like the idea of legalizing same sex marriage in Hawaii. :(I heard that some representatives said that most youths support same sex marriage , well then, they are dumbass cause as far as the youths I know they don't support it, and the rest doesn't care. Please don't ruin my future. With much respect and love for the country, Arlene Chan

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: tonga12sd@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:25:43 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Sepiuta Davis	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: IF YOU ALL ARE SAYING THAT SAME SEX COUPLES CAN PROCREATE AND CONCEIVE THEN MAYBE I MIGHT AGREE ON THE BILL. BUT UNTIL THEN, I AM A BELIEVER THAT A MAN AND WOMAN CAN PROCREATE AND HAVE CHILDREN. THAT MARRIAGE IS OF GOD. THIS NATION WAS BUILT UNDER GOD, YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT AWAY....LET ME VOTE!!!!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: tonga12sd@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:21:14 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Sepiuta Davis	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: GIVE ME THIS RIGHT TO VOTE, IF YOU ARE WILLING TO GIVE RIGHTS TO SAME-SEX MARRIAGE!!!!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: tonga12sd@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:19:48 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Sepiuta Davis	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE! WE LIVE IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY! LET US PEOPLE OF HAWAII HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GREATER GOOD AND FUTURE OF HAWAII TO VOTE!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: tonga12sd@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:18:26 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Sepiuta Davis	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: LET ME VOTE!!!! I have a testimony that only a male and female can procreate. I have a testimony that a family is ordained of God which involves a man and a woman. I have the right to vote on this matter, let the people of Hawaii have this choice. Don't take this choice away!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: tonga12sd@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:15:45 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Sepiuta Davis	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As an American citizen, I too have voting rights in a democratic society. I am concerned that you all will make decisions that is unfair to us as people who have chosen some of you as our state leaders because we want our voice to be heard. We care about our state, our community, and those who lead this beautiful American State. And if not our voice, we want our votes to count. Please consider that no matter what happens to the state of Hawaii as far as marriage is concerned, I want to vote, as do many of those residing in this beautiful state. Please don't take that right away from me, my children, my family, my friends, our military service members, and those who all reside and care.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: tillybean808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:14:07 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Tileree	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a teenager in high school I believe that everyone should have a voice. And finding out about the special session being held in private I feel is unfair to the people. As a believer I was always taught to love the sinner but not the sin and that's because we know that God loves all people and we are all equal in his eyes. But marriage is a sacred covenant held between a man and a women and nothing in between. Part of the first amendment says that we have the freedom of religion but if you think about it if this law were to be passed would we still be able to have freedom? Or would it limit us from doing what we love and believe? I think that this topic is HUGE and that five days isn't enough to make a sound decision. And I ask myself how will this affect our generation and future generations to come? Especially if it were to be taught in public schools to children of all of ages. Time is on our time, so please take into consideration all possibilities before rushing into a decision.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: saltoftheearthsalina@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:13:23 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Salina Iranon	Simply Said...the Wedding Store	Oppose	No

Comments: I'am against the proposed Same-sex Marriage Bill. As far as I was taught a man and a women are to be wed. God created a man and a women to marry have children and multiplying the earth. I as a business owner should have the right to choose not to serve same-sex marriages.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: jendplus3@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:06:55 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
jennifer diaz	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	Oppose	No

Comments: As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, I do not support the bill in order to enact gay marriage. I believe in the sanctity of the family and believe that that family encompasses a marriage between a man and a woman. God instituted this by creating men and women with specific physical attributes which makes it possible to conceive and create the family the way He intended it. I am not ok with altering the idea or what a family should be and do not want marriages of a homosexual nature allowed in places that I consider holy, such as my temples and my churches. Please vote no on same~sex marriage!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: laietyau@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:36:37 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Eloise Tyau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha Senators and Representatives of the State of Hawaii, My name is Eloise Tyau and I am a voting resident in the State of Hawaii. I strongly oppose the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Bill. I urge you to vote “NO” and allow the people of Hawaii to vote. This bill would result in the loss of religious freedom for many religious leaders, organizations, individuals and small businesses. It will also redefine marriage and as such will contribute to the deterioration of the traditional family which will lead to the eventual downfall of our society. I hope you will seriously consider the consequences if this bill is passed. These are matters of great concern to the religious community and your constituents. Thank you for your consideration of these serious issues, and thank you for your service to our State as Senators and Representatives. Sincerely, Eloise Tyau

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: pedro.dinezio@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:57:08 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Pedro DiNezio	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha and thank you for attending this special session to address this important issue. I am writing to express my full and unequivocal support for marriage equality. Civil Unions already grant same-sex couples all of the rights, benefits and responsibilities as defined by the State for marriage. Now that the Defense of Marriage Act has been struck down, the logical next step is to allow same-sex marriages so that Federal rights, benefits and responsibilities will apply in Hawaii as well. This is a basic civil rights issue. We have waited long enough. Let's not wait any longer. Do the right thing. Mahalo for your time. Pedro DiNezio, Pupukea.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	drjchristensen@hotmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 6:59:16 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
James Christensen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I do not support the Same Sex Marriage Bill. I feel it deprives me of my freedom by making me serve those who choose that lifestyle. Please be tolerant on both sides of the issue. I rent part of my house to help make ends meet. I can now not rent to those who choose to smoke, or to those who choose to have a pet. I would also like to choose to not rent to those who choose to have a same sex lover. Please don't take away my right to choose who can live in my house with me.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: jtn@byuh.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:52:56 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Joe Nemrow	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I oppose this legislation. I firmly believe that it will be used to restrict my religious freedom to express my deeply held belief that marriage is an institution between a man and a woman.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: carolinapray@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:39:05 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Carolina Jesus	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a registered voter, I am requesting that my elected government officials would represent me well by opposing the legalization of same sex marriage. I want my testimony to count, just like my vote counts. "No" to legalizing same sex marriage. Mahalo nui loa.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: johnrhinkle@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:08:44 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
john hinkle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support civil rights and equal rights for all citizens. One group is not "better than" another group, even when we do not share one another's belief systems. I ask you to vote in support this measure. Mahalo!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: thomas.decloedt@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:28:32 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Thomas Decloedt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha and thank you for attending this special session to address this important issue. I fully support marriage equality. Civil Unions already grant same-sex couples all of the rights, benefits and responsibilities as defined by the State for marriage. Now that the Defense of Marriage Act has been struck down, the logical next step is to allow same-sex marriages so that Federal rights, benefits and responsibilities will apply in Hawaii as well. This is a basic civil rights issue and many of my friends are currently in a situation where they don't have the same benefits because of their sexual orientation. We have waited long enough. Let's not wait any longer! Mahalo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: paradisesubmarine@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:14:39 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Craig F. Heath	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Cc: paradisesubmarine@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:13:32 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Craig F. Heath	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Cc: rhodes_cd@hotmail.com
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Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:07:58 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Christina Rhodes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: To Whom It May Concern: It is with deep concern that I submit to you my testimony with regard to the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. I recognize this issue evokes immense passion from both sides of the aisle. The family unit, in the traditional sense has been the foundation of our society since its inception. And looking to change the foundation is a question that I firmly believe is best left to the people by direct vote not through just the elected official's special committee. The people of Hawaii should have the right to decide if their foundation in which their most precious institutions, including education are built upon, should be changed. I do not understand the logic of allowing a special group of elected individuals to decide on such a life changing issue that impacts everyone. This Bill, if passed, redefines moral standards for EVERYONE. It is not about choice or equality it's about fundamentally changing society. My biggest concern is what will further happen to our children if this bill is passed. This Bill, like many that have passed in other states, becomes the door in which our children become subjected and coerced into an alternative lifestyle. Parents won't have an "OPT OUT" option in what MORAL lifestyle is taught to their son or daughter in Health Class, the State will decide and control that decision for them, in the name of this law. The school won't have an option to OPT OUT either as it is mandatory curriculum and funds will be withheld from the School. Teachers who morally disagree with this fundamental change will not be given the choice to OPT OUT of teaching these alternative lifestyles to the children. If they have issue and don't teach the curriculum, they can be reprimanded and as well as fired. Many Children will be mandated to learn about a lifestyle in Health class that has nothing to do with reproduction. And in order to understand this lifestyle, children will need to be taught all aspects including and not limited to different ways Same Sex Marriage Couples consummate their relationships. In Massachusetts Children are being asked to participate in "GAY DAY" and show their support by dressing as a Cross Dresser or Transsexual. These type of policies are happening in the State of Washington, Minnesota, Iowa, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maryland, Maine Delaware, and Rhode Island. All of this is absolutely appalling to me, as none of this is not about choice or protection of religious liberty, but about a progressive agenda that hijacks our children's education, all in the name of this law. I believe government should stay out

of the issue of marriage all together. Marriage was founded as a religious union. Redefining that union by a small group of individuals, in my opinion, seems as if it is a misuse of power. If the people of the State of Hawaii choose to make this fundamental change, then their will, the will of the people will speak and law should be craft on their direct vote. In closing, I kindly ask you to listen to the people of Hawaii who have already voted this measure down once, please vote against the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Or decide to put this bill to a vote of the people and let them decide again if this is their will or not. Sincerely, C.R.

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Cc: jljedlinsky@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:48:40 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jennifer L Meek	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: "Same Sex Marriage Bill" To our legislators: Please vote no on this bill until it can be revised to protect the rights of all the community... or allow the people to vote on this very important issue.

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Cc: ralphjordanbilan@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:17:46 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Ralph Jordan Bilan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha, My name is Ralph Jordan Bilan and I am a registered voter in the State of Hawaii. I am writing on behalf of the Same -Sex-Marriage discussion and asking you to say "NO" to Senate Bill 1 on October 28, 2013. No amendments can be made to legislation. As a result, true democracy is made a mockery of because the voice of the people is NOT adequately heard in a five-day special session, especially if that voice is "Amend the bill." Marriage is an institution and NOT a civil right, and no court (including the Supreme Court) has ever said that it is. I am asking you to please say "NO" to Senate Bill 1. With Warmest Aloha, Ralph Jordan Bilan, M.B.A.

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Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:04:00 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
kris hara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: My dear elected public officials. I ask that you vote no for SB1. As an American, I do not want my ability to practice free speech or exercise of my religious rights denied. Please look wisely at the degradation of these individual rights that have occurred in other cities and countries embracing this minority request. As a republic practicing democracy - the people voted, no to same sex marriage in 1998. We approved a constitutional amendment granting the Hawaii State Legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples, which made it impossible to challenge the state's ban on same-sex marriage. Why would any of our elected officials not listen, not value the majority vote? Thank you for your service, thank you for remembering how the people of Hawaii spoke, thank you for not letting the few, trample the voices of Hawaii's people.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:59:50 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Filomeno Kakilala	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a register voter in the State of Hawaii, I would like that we the people would decide on the issue of same sex marriage and not the legislators. I oppose same sex marriage and would like would like this matter decided by the people. Thanks.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:54:41 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Latesha Stephens	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, My name is Latesha Stephens. I am a registered voter living on the Big Island of Hawaii. I join with many concerned citizens in humbly urging you not to pass the same sex marriage bill in this special session. This special session is not allowing enough time to hear the public, weigh in all the facts or make amendments. There is no reason why this bill could not be put off for discussion until January when you reconvene in regular session. This is too important of an issue to just rush through!!!

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Cc: theplantnerd@yahoo.com
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Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:54:04 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Mr. Kelly Watson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear legislators, As the leaders of our great nation's most ethnically diverse state in the union, you know that diversity is a strength to be nurtured and that no one should be denied the right to marry the one they love! My "reciprocal beneficiary" and I (that doesn't exactly sound very loving, does it?)have been together for twenty five years, half of our lifetimes of fifty years. We pay more in taxes because we can't file together. There are over one thousand and three hundred rights that we are denied federally simply because we are the same gender. Granting us the ability to have our family recognized the same as other married couples will mean we are no longer second-class citizens. I was so proud our Hawaii State Supreme Court, way back in 1996, when it decided our constitution did not allow discrimination in letting gay and lesbian couples marry. That decision actually stirred the whole nation, if not the world, on this civil rights inequality. Unfortunately, the concept was too new for some people to recognize the unfairness. The time has come for Hawaii's leaders to show our people and our nation the true meaning of our state motto, "Ua Mau ke Ea o ka Aina I ka Pono." "The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness." It is time for the State of Hawaii to show that we are a kind and just people who value all of our ohana. Let it be known that Hawaii is on the right side of history by believing in equality for all! Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully, Kelly Watson

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Cc: kristylum804@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:21:22 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kristy Lum	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:20:31 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Nihaniya A. Ludig	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I do believe that this Bill is masking a lot of other things that is more than "Same Sex Marriage and Equality." As a mother, if this Bill passes, will I still have the rights of a parent to monitor what types of classes my son is enrolled in? Will I have the Freedom of choice to take my son out of certain subjects if I wish to, without being arrested. Will this Bill protect my rights of Freedom of Speech? Will this Bill force religious leaders into doing something against the faith and belief of that religious leader? Well, I do believe S.B 1 is masking more things that are hidden under the surface. Including things that is not in light yet. From what I have heard, read, and saw on the News, this Bill reversed discrimination. This Bill is not showing any type of Equality if these parents in other states are being thrown in jail for voicing his or her concern and protecting the welfare of his or her own children. I have been taken out of class when certain subjects arose because my parents did not appreciate the topic of the lesson. Why should the parental rights be any different if this Bill passes? This Bill is bullying citizens. Now focusing on the subject at hand. There are so many children and youths that are having identity problems already, I think if we instill traditional practices then our youths will have a better foundation. Youths will explore and act as all youths do, BUT the value of Traditional Marriages will always and should always be taught, so when they grow into adulthood they will not be confused. My name is Nihaniya A. Ludig and I am Hawaiian. I Object to S.B.1.

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Cc:	marsha.miyamoto@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:26:25 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
marsha miyamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Honor Democracy in Hawaii Please Vote NO to Same Sex Marriage to give Hawaii's voices a respectful amount of time to be heard. Why is democracy pushed aside to rush a non-urgent yet very serious amendment? 1.Homosexuals should be respected just like everybody else, not given specially privileged quick bill amendments. 2.Exercise Democracy. Vote NO to allow adequate time for sufficient public input. 3.Rushing five/six days is too little time to hear the voice of Hawaii. Lets face it, in a suffering economy, everyone is busy and needs more time for any issue to be voiced. 4.This is not an emergency bill amendment. Why Fast-forward it? 5.Five/Six days is not enough time to discuss or research such serious effects and changes this would lead to in beloved unique Hawaii. 6.Rushing will lead to buyer's remorse (in this case society remorse/voters remorse) 7. According to the Supreme Court, marriage is not a civil right. It should be decided by the people. This requires ample time to voice concerns. 8.It is fundamental that a constitutional amendment should be decided by the people rather than an elite few within a quick inadequate five/six day session. 9.This is not a religious issue. This is a Democracy issue. 10.A "yes" vote is actually a "no" to democracy Hi. As a registered voter I am very concerned about how this session is being processed. You were recognized and voted for your integrity and hard work. You are entrusted with the great responsibility to hold democracy in the highest respect and honor what the people will stand for. You are expected by the people to research different views and how a bill would change Hawaii. Thank you for taking on such a courageous difficult task. I know you will not disappoint Democracy in Hawaii.

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Cc: haleluana@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:57:15 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Louise Simrell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I will be proud and happy when Hawaii grants equality and the human right to marry the person of one's choosing. Equality is is not a complex issue; it is self explanatory. I received an e-mail from my Representative saying he opposes equality, but respects differing opinions. Only prejudice would keep someone from endorsing equality in marriage. Usually, such prejudice is based on religious beliefs. Separation of church and state is written into our constitution and I would ask that he honor the constitution before he honors his church. And I would remind him and all other opponents that it was not that long ago that many states banned inter-racial marriage. This is 2013, not 1913; we are supposed to be enlightened. Mahalo. Aloha, Louise Simrell

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Cc:	deanyo@hawaii.rr.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:44:57 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Dean Miyamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: There's no Democracy in a rush special session! Fast forward rush to special session is fast forward destruction to democracy. Hi. As a registered voter I am very concerned about how this session is being processed. You were recognized and voted for your integrity and hard work. You are entrusted with the great responsibility to hold democracy in the highest respect and honor what the people will stand for. You are expected by the people to research different views and how a bill would change Hawaii. Thank you for taking on such a courageous difficult task. I know you will not disappoint Democracy in Hawaii. 1.Exercise Democracy. Vote NO to allow adequate time for sufficient public input. 2.Rushing five/six days is too little time to hear the voice of Hawaii. Lets face it, in a suffering economy, everyone is busy and needs more time for any issue to be voiced. 3.This is not an emergency bill amendment. Why Fast-forward it? Don't ignore voices of Hawaii. 4.Five/Six days is not enough time to discuss or research such serious effects and changes this would lead to in beloved unique Hawaii. 5.Big mistakes happen when rushing like buyer's remorse. 6. According to the Supreme Court, marriage is not a civil right. It should be decided by the people. This requires ample time to voice concerns. 7.It is fundamental that a constitutional amendment should be decided by the people rather than an elite few within a quick inadequate five/six day session. 8.This is not a religious issue. This is a Democracy issue. 9.A “yes” vote is actually a “no” to democracy 10.Homosexuals should be respected just like everybody else, not given specially privileged quick bill amendments. equal rights doesn't mean get special privileges! Why is democracy pushed aside to rush a non-urgent yet very serious amendment?

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SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Andrzej Tarasewicz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I thought that we settled this question in the constitutional amendment of 1998 and defined marriage as only between couples of opposite sexes. If anyone wants to change this, the only legitimate course is go back to the people and ask them again. Let the people decide!

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Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:13:29 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Doss Stallings	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am writing as a concerned Hawaii resident to let you know I am opposed to the proposed legislation on same-sex marriage. These are the reasons for my opposed view: 1) This legislation attempts to redefine marriage. Redefining marriage will put children, families and society at a risk no one can afford. There have been numerous empirical studies over decades that have proven children develop best when raised by a father and a mother in a stable home. Those communities and societies that have abandoned traditional marriage have realized dramatic increases in depression, drug abuse, drop out rates and crime. Any legislation that is changing the focus on traditional marriage to accommodate an adult relationship when the focus should be on the children is wrong. 2) The supposed protections written and offered in the current draft are completely inadequate to safeguard constitutionally guaranteed religious freedoms. 3) This legislation is not a Civil Rights or Equal Rights issue. It is a morale issue. Masquerading this under any other title is wrong. 4)It is wrong to violate the rights of the many for the supposed rights of the few. Doss Stallings

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Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 3:11:45 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
marci paddock	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I urge you to vote no on this issue. Studies clearly show that children raised by same sex couples have a greater chance of gender confusion and emotional problems throughout their lives. Hawaii's children attending public schools should not be submitted to education on same sex relationships when, even through their teens, young people are still discovering who they are and can be easily swayed by teachers and other influences into choosing a less than traditional life style. The people of Hawaii are a family oriented people and deserve the right to protect their families and especially their children for future generations. Same sex couples do not produce a posterity.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:58:52 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jane Dickson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. Thank you.

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Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:53:29 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
khysell	Individual	Support	No

Comments: all written testimony must clearly indicate to which committee the testimony is being submitted (COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR), the measure number (SB1), the date and time of the hearing (Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.), and whether you will be testifying in person. *NOTE: the information you need to include in your testimony is in parenthesis) i support equality in all states including hawaii. my brother and many others just want to be considered and treated as equals and deserve that right as much as anyone else.

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Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:10:34 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
George Ainge	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Committee, I am urging you in the strongest terms possible to pass the marriage equality bill for the good of Hawaii. To do otherwise would be a grave injustice to all of our citizens for many years to come. There are strong opinions on both sides of this issue but when you get to the heart of the matter it is all about fairness and equal treatment for everyone. Denying equality to gay and lesbian citizens is unthinkable. It is really that simple and you are honor bound to act for equality for all. Respectfully, George Ainge, MD Kamuela, HI

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Cc:	angjak51@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:03:24 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jake & Angel Raposa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Thank you for accepting our written testimony. Both my husband and I request this very important issue go before the people of our State<> it should not be decided by a Special Session. "We the people" formed this country - and we should be able to voice our stand. We are a Catholic Faith family, this does not mean we do not care for and love Gays - we have many within our family. Our faith does mean - we desire the traditional marriage between a man and a woman. Please - let this issue go before the people of Hawaii and the decision will be ours.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:10:39 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Cade Watanabe	UNITE HERE Local 5	Support	No

Comments: TESTIMONY on BEHALF OF UNITE HERE LOCAL 5

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: smithak21@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:17:25 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Alicia K. Smith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: My name is Alicia K. Smith and I am a registered voter in the State of Hawai'i. I urge the Senators to restrict traditional marriage between oppposite sex couples in accordance with the State of Hawai'i's constitutional laws. In accordance with Hawai'i's State Constitution, I urge the Senators to reconfirm the voters 1990's decision for opposite sex couples only marriage with the House of Representatives.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: karacrofts@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:57:04 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kara Fisher	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please know that I am opposed to this bill in general. I am also alarmed at the speed in which this bill is trying to be passed and especially opposed to the way it infringes upon religious beliefs and rites. Now that you know please represent my opinion accordingly! Thank you so much, Kara Fisher

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: linamatau@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:54:13 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
lina matau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Thank you for all you are doing for the state. I oppose to this bill and kindly ask for a hearing and have the people of Hawaii vote on this. There shouldn't be a rush in trying to get this done. This is a matter that will impact the future of our land and children. We need to let the people's voice be heard. Thank you. Peace & blessings Lina Matau

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: janstallings5@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:25:10 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jan Stallings	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am writing and submitting this letter as a concerned Hawaii resident to let you know I am opposed to the proposed legislation on same-sex marriage. There are two reasons for my opposed view: 1) This legislation attempts to redefine marriage. Redefining marriage will put children, families and society at a risk no one can afford. There have been numerous empirical studies over decades that have proven children develop best when raised by a father and a mother in a stable home. Those communities and societies that have abandoned traditional marriage have realized dramatic increases in depression, drug abuse, drop out rates and crime. Any legislation that is changing the focus on traditional marriage to accommodate an adult relationship when the focus should be on the children is wrong. 2) The supposed protections written and offered in the current draft are completely inadequate to safeguard constitutionally guaranteed religious freedoms. This legislation is not a Civil Rights or Equal Rights issue. It is a morale issue. Masquerading this under any other title is wrong. It is wrong to violate the rights of the many for the supposed rights of the few. Thank you for your time, Jan Stallings

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: dragbikemike@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:10:16 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Michael Schmalle	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the right of same sex individuals to marry each other. Marriage has both responsibilities and benefits. It is unfair to deny same sex couples those benefits, especially when no harm is done to anyone else.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: jillf2184@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:53:30 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jill Friedman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support SB1 to allow and recognize same sex marriage and provide the same rights and benefits to same sex married couples as opposite sex married couples.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: bishopmattj@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:01:47 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Matt Bishop	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Committee Members, I am opposed to this legislation for two reasons: First, it attempts to redefine marriage; Second, I do not believe the protections offered in the draft protect the freedom of religious institutions enough. I feel it is a waste of money and time for the governor to call this session, Hawaii is not fully recovered from the economic issues that have wrecked havoc across the country and this session is a waste of the tax payer money. I am also very disturbed at the legislators being very reluctant to hear from their constituents on this issue. Many I have spoken to across the state talk about mostly the Senators refusal to even consider what their constituents want and are just ramming this bill down the throats of all the citizens of Hawaii. I certainly experienced this in my interactions with Senator Kidani. You all were elected to serve the citizens of this state and by telling us you know better than we do is not what you were elected to do! If you all are so sure that this is what the citizens of Hawaii want, put it to the democratic challenge and allow a vote! Doing this in a rushed special session is a way to restrict the opposition and any challenges to the bill on its merits and force a bill upon the citizens of this great state. You all should be ashamed of the way you are carrying out your elected duties!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: sdinion@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:30:27 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Steve Dinion	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support providing full marriage rights to all couples regardless of gender. Thank you for your consideration and support of this important bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: marydudoit@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:50:19 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Mary Dudoit	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am asking our political representatives to please put your personal feelings on this matter aside and allow the people of Hawaii to take a vote on this extremely important issue. There are strong supporters on both sides of this issue. As servants of the people of Hawaii, it is the right to let us vote. I do not want a law that goes against God's law forced upon me. Passing this law without allowing the people to vote is not fair, or just. I feel that my religious freedoms will be ignored if a law that requires (forces) me and my family to approve of something that goes completely against our religious beliefs is adopted. I am opposed to going against God's definition of marriage. Please let the people vote. Thank you.

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To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	email.susann@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:42:21 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Susann	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose the legalizing of same sex marriage in Hawaii. I am deeply concerned that individuals, such as wedding vendors or government employees, will not be exempt from this bill to act according to their conscience should they have religious or philosophical beliefs against same sex marriage.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: nsk5311@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:47:08 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Naomi Kobayashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Let the people of Hawaii make the choice instead of the senators carrying the heavy burden of making the wrong choice. Ramifications and costs are enormous for the future of Hawaii. The people of Hawaii should have an opportunity to make the choice of an important decision that could affect their lives and the future of Hawaii.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: blcloutier@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:04:38 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Brenda L. Cloutier	Individual	Support	No

Comments: RE: SB1 - Marriage Equality I am very much in favor of legalizing gay marriage. This issue is the last bastion of inequality in our country and in our state, and to do anything other than full equality is in violation of our First Amendment rights and responsibilities. Our federal government has gone as far as to accept all legally married for tax and other social program benefits. Even the military has accepted not only homosexuals who serve, but full marriage equality and spousal benefits. Does this violate the rights of someone who believes this is a sin? Let me ask another very related question: Does racial equality violate the rights of those who are racially prejudiced, even those who believe their racial hate is supported by their holy book? We're not talking about one brand of morality. We're talking human rights. Religious books and holy books have been used to perpetuate great hate on humankind who don't act or believe as "we" do. Hate and hate speech are not constitutional rights. It's time to ignore the excuses for fear-induced hate. It's time to stop the prejudicial inequality. I have evolved greatly in my attitudes toward social reform, from being raised fundamentalists as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, to believing it is not my right or responsibility to preach or legislate any brand or morality at a government level, let alone a social level. In fact, the government needs to take the lead in this and legalize it before many people will even begin to accept the concept of two people who love each other being allowed the same rights as current married couples enjoy. Sincerely, Brenda L. Cloutier Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

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Cc: mtzennmaster@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:51:08 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Richard Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of marriage equity regardless of who wants to get married. I believe it is time that we as a people become accepting of lifestyles and philosophies that do not necessarily align with our own. It is about aloha. Mahalo for the opportunity to share my support of this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: chantrillj@clearwire.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:24:28 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jared Chantrill	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Chairman Hee and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor I oppose SB1. I understand the reasons why the Governor wants it considered; the proponents have made it appear as if this were a matter of equal rights discrimination. This bill requires major overhauls to truly protect civil rights (particularly the freedom of religion). It has been called more liberal than any marriage act passed in other states. I do not envy the choice you must make concerning the definition of marriage. Support for same gender marriage appears to have become very popular recently. I also would not want anyone to be discriminated against unjustly. Unfortunately, I have been told that this special session will not allow for amendments. Therefore, the question becomes whether it is a right for same-gender couples to receive the protections of marriage at the expense of all the protected classes that will be adversely effected by this bill as it is currently written. Marriage equality is a misnomer for an attempt to expand the misuse of a loophole in existing marriage laws at the expense of the original intent of these laws. NOT AN ISSUE OF DISCRIMINATION At issue is whether not recognizing the marriage between homosexuals is an illegal form of discrimination. Discriminating against minorities is fine as long as the discrimination is not related to their membership in a protected class. For example, discriminating against a welfare applicant because that person is in the top 1% of wage earners is perfectly legal even though that person is technically a minority. They are not members of a protected class. Homosexuals are members of a protected class. However, the State of Hawaii granted same gender couples most of the protections of marriage under civil unions. TITLE PROTECTION Therefore, my opposition is not as much about social Justice as it is about title protection. As a social worker, title protection has been a very important topic for us during the past decades. We want to ensure that unqualified people do not provide services by calling themselves "social workers". When people hear that title, they assume the bearer has attended school to become qualified to use it, but without title protection, a high school dropout with no experience could call him/herself a social worker. What does the title of marriage protect? The origins of marriage are unsure. There are many theories. However, most of the theories I have seen involve ensuring healthy heirs to the family (preferably ones who have the family genes). The primary factor is never emotions. Marriage between opposite gender partners allows

childbirth, or the production of heirs. There have been no examples where a child has been produced in a relationship between two men. Science can allow female couples to produce children through invitro fertilization, but not through sexual contact. INCENTIVES PREVENT ILLEGITIMACY On the other hand, even when one opposite gender partner was considered sterile, there have been cases where children were miraculously conceived through intercourse. The potential of accidental conception highlights the importance of encouraging opposite gender couples to enter the institution of marriage through incentives even when childbirth is not planned. Same gender couples do not require the same incentives, because there is no possibility of accidental offspring. I believe that incentives were originally created for marriage to discourage illegitimate children. These children have traditionally been seen as a burden on the economy. Back when it was hard to get a divorce, marriage prevented children from falling into this category. Now that divorces are relatively easy to come by, marriage incentives may no longer be appropriate, but that is not the issue before the committee at this time. It appears that the argument homosexual supporters are making is that same-gender couples are not able to receive the benefits that were set in place to encourage both parents to raise their genetic offspring together. These benefits were not intended for other types of couples. The marriage equity proponents need to lobby the federal government if they want these rights extended to them rather than trying to get these rights through a back door maneuver. Does this mean that I oppose the marriage of 80 year old women? I will not address this as it is not the question before the committee today. The important point is that just because there is a loophole does not mean that we have to expand the loopholes to fit a greater portion of the population. An astute lawyer can find loopholes in most laws. Law would lose it's power if people were allowed to change other laws so they could claim to fit into the loophole group. ADOPTION DIFFERENT FROM GENETIC RELATIONSHIP Some have argued that same-gender couples do fit into this loophole in that they can adopt. As an adoptive parent, I can testify that adoption is not the same thing as having your own children. My children feel connected to their birth parents and are much more interested in the accomplishments and history of their genetic ancestors then their adoptive ancestors even though we have not introduced them. This means that the parental relationship where both parents are not genetically related to the children will always be a "second class" relationships (to use a term popular among marriage equity supporters) whether the couple is married or not. Does this mean that I do not support marriages in step-parent situations? I will not address that question because it is not under consideration at this time. The important question is whether same-sex couples require the marriage incentives for their adoption. The government has many incentives to encourage adoption. I defer the decision about encouraging adoption in civil unions to your sound judgement. The important thing is that children with biological parents who love each other are more likely to be healthy, especially emotionally. The government needs to encourage these relationships or foot the bill for caring for unhealthy offspring. GREED AND RECRUITMENT ARE NOT CIVIL RIGHTS The explanation I received as to why this issue could not wait until the regular session is because this way same-sex couples can qualify for 2013 benefits. As I said above, these benefits were not intended for them. In addition to wanting benefits that were not intended for them. Homosexuals want to recruit new potential partners. When Hawaii added sexual orientation to the list of civil rights, homosexual

advocates stated that they were not doing this to recruit. However, in states where same-sex marriage has been passed, they have done just that, even in schools. I recently saw the image of a group of high school boys marching in a school parade holding a banner reading "Some men marry dudes. Get over it." Parents are not allowed to opt their children out of this recruitment. The case brought against EHarmony clearly displayed the intentions of the homosexual supporters to me. There were many websites offering similar services, but homosexual advocates sued to force EHarmony to offer the services also. EHarmony bases their services on science. They cannot assume that what proves valid for traditional couples will be valid for same-gender couples. And, as I stated before, their were other sites providing the services already. Homosexual advocates had no apparent reason to raise the lawsuit. In conclusion, I do not support titling the relationship between same gender couples as marriage to satisfy the greed of a a few individuals who happen to belong to a protected class. It is not an equality issue, it is a matter of title protection. Same gender couples do not have the prerequisites for the institution of marriage, namely, the ability to produce healthy children naturally (even accidentally). It is also a wedge that homosexual supporters in other states have used to weaken family unity. Please oppose the destruction of the marriage institution and support marriage's role in history and society by keeping marriage between a man and a woman. Mahalo, Jared Chantrill Honolulu

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To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: OccupyHiloMedia@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:15:05 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kerri Marks	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo for introducing this very important and long overdue legislation. Please vote YES for marriage equality. Kerri Marks Hilo, Hawaii

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From: June Donaghy
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 5:59:47 AM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor"

Please vote NO on this same-sex marriage legislation relating to Equality.

Marriage is a covenant given to a man and woman by God. It is not a civil or equal right.

He made man and woman to come together and join as one flesh. This is not possible

with two members of the same sex. It is gift given by our creator not an equal right under a man made law.

Our rights are given to us by the God of the Universe.

May He give you His wisdom to make this decision wisely.

Our best wishes in your consideration of in this matter,

Joe & June Donaghy
1995 Paulele Place
Kihei, Maui, Hawaii. 96753

From: Glenn Ogasawara
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:07:30 AM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Committee Members

I stand in opposition to propose bill SB 1.
This bill clearly restrict my right not to agree with same gender sexual relationship
I have no opposition with every citizen of the US to have equal benefits from the government but do not agree with the government criminalizing faith believing citizens to go against the laws of God which will bring His judgement on them. If this bill pass it will cause many to willingly be thrown into the lions den. Book of Daniel chap 6

God Bless
Glenn Ogasawara

Sent from my iPad

From: Timo Matuu
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Re: Testimony In Opposition To SB1 Relation to Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:47:16 AM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I'm in oppose to the Bill of same-sex marriage for it goes against Heaven and Earth and especially God himself. Marriage is "instituted" by God: Genesis 2:24 "that is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.". The first marriage is of Adam and Eve. The first record or "marriage contract' found in the ruins of the Jewish Garrison is recorded over 2,500 years of being between a man and a woman. The fourth Commandment of the bible states, "honor your father and mother...". And marriage is a religious concept therefore violates the First Amendment religious clause in terms of a "wall of separation between church and state". In the beginning pilgrimage of the Untied State, our government has been chosen by the people, laws decided by the people and protected by the people in "one nation under God" as a reminder who is in charge of our direction, I mean, why else would we stamp our federal note bills$ with "In God We Trust". Again, let the people decide, God does not take kindly on those who go against His will or what He's instituted, Mark 10:9, "Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate...". Sodom and Gomorrah thought they can do what ever they wanted to do and they felt God's opinion on that. Thank you very much for this opportunity and God bless. :)

-Timo Matuu

From: LeRoy Brown
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: RE: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:03:08 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

RE: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am here to provide testimony in opposition to SB1 due to the following reasons: The bill's public accommodation clause will disqualify our church from the protection offered by the bill against lawsuits and litigation. It has been our practice for many years to house and feed many homeless families and assist them into permanent housing. Since these homeless families are not members of our church, under the current bill, our church will have no protections offeredby the bill. We do not assist homeless people expecting them to become members of our church but rather provide assistance because we are Catholics. Please vote no to this bill as it is currently written so we will not have to end the assistance we are providing to the needy in our community.

Thank you for your kind considerations.

LeRoy Brown
6370 Hawaii Kai Drive #60
Honolulu, HI 96825
808-753-4949

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From: Maka Jones
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Please vote NO re: SB 1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:19:04 AM

Please vote NO for the following reasons:
1. The people should decide. Put it to vote so we can cast our own vote.
2. A special session with only four or less opportunities to speak and discuss is a disservice to ALL regardless of which side one sits on the issue.
3. The bill does not adequately address or provide protections for religious institutions.
4. Same sex couples already have equal opportunity and protections to marriage. They can be married in states that already provide them and it has federal recognition as a result. Hawaii should not redefine marriage in a special session where only a few can weigh in on such a personal issue.

Let the people decide for themselves. Put it to a vote!!
Please vote NO!
Thank you,
Makanani Jones
Honolulu 96821
(808) 284-3345

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30am

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Jansen Ucol, and I oppose Senate Bill 1 relating to equality.

After subbing a choreographer's dance class, I couldn't help but smile as two dads left for lunch with their 8-year-old son. This was the first of many Saturdays that I continued to see this family. It reminded me of my years living in the San Francisco Bay - the gay Jerusalem of the world. I remembered the Castro district filled with gays holding hands as they walked to their Pottery Barn homes that they happily owned. I recalled having lunches and drinks down the famous Lombard with friends who have been partners for years.

About a month after, my pastor ended a service with these bold words, "I love the gay community. Jesus died for them the same way He died for all of us." That's strong statement for any pastor to say considering the taboo of homosexuality in churches.

Needless to say, the issue of same-sex marriage finally caught my attention. For months I put it in the back of mind hoping I wouldn't have to confront my friends and family.
Most would question what's there to confront about. After all, majority of my friends are gay, my sister is a lesbian, and it was never difficult for me to come out of the closet - unless of course it was trying to determine which boots would go best with my super skinny jeans.

Living in San Francisco and having been cultured to what being a gay man in the 21st Century means, you'd think I'd be ecstatic that our state is coming closer to same-sex marriage. However, with this preconceived euphoria is the awkward truth that many gays aren't supportive of same-sex marriage.

Instead, gays like me have been thrown into a new wave of conformity, and as a result, an ironic taboo has originated. For someone of my sexual orientation to be against marriage equality makes it seem like I'm burning the gay flag my community fought for.

But on the contrary, I'm exemplifying the essence of why any community initially fights for rights, and that is to stop feeling oppressed- to voice an opinion despite the trending consensus.

Unfortunately, a trending consensus has become something majority of Hawaii's legislators, according to current polls, have fallen trap to. One representative, for example, who once was

against civil unions, has recently said, “I have wrestled with my thoughts, my values, my faith and what I believe to be the best way forward. The world has changed – and so have I.” Moreover, many of our legislators claim they want the gay community to be happy. However, no proof is shown that same-sex marriage is something majority of the gays in Hawaii even want - let alone feel any different should it pass.

And so, I share this confession as a means of finally coming out of the closet, and for those who are still in one, to voice their standpoint so Hawaii’s legislators can come to a careful and respectable decision.

Respectfully,

Jansen Ucol

The Playground Dance Studio
94-223 Hanawai Circle
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797
(808) 484-5857
Theplaygroundhi@gmail.com

From: manukai05@aol.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Same sex marriage
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 8:13:01 PM

I am writing in order to voice my opinion and will not be testifying in person.

I am a christian and we believe that God created all things, it is He that instituted the law of marriage. I, therefore, do not agree with changing any idea or wording of marriage. If the law is going to be changed it should be done by God Himself for it is written that no man shall change the words of the Bible.

What happens to our equality? Are we going to be heard?

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Nicole Kuamoo

Sent from my iPad

From:	Philip Nerney
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	SB1
Date:	Tuesday, October 22, 2013 8:45:19 PM

The legislature CAN take it's intended action. It SHOULD submit the matter to the voters.

Sent from my iPad
Philip S. Nerney
737 Bishop Street, Suite 2780
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	jcmapu5-808@hawaii.rr.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Tuesday, October 22, 2013 10:20:50 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/22/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Cussana Mapu	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I do not support this bill. I just heard the majority representative say we are aware of the concerns and will address them in the session. You do not know EVERYONE'S the VOTER'S concerns. What worries me is the premise for the legislature to cast their votes mimicking the federal government shut down. To be re-elected. What is more of a worry for me is that my religious freedom to not recognize this marriage is now being overlooked. I attend my religion because I believe that marriage is reserved for a woman and a man. Where I attend to practice my religion, name facilities etc, and how my children are being raised should be be a freedom for us without the government telling us otherwise. Instead, we are now becoming the minority, and our rights are now being infringed upon. Our right to practice and believe in our religious theories and practices. What is the difference between a common law bond between a man and a woman and same sex marriage. Common law do not even have rights the same as same sex couples. Why not? I believe marriage has been foreordained to be between a woman and a man. Man (government) cannot make a decision on that based on the minority and secret agendas of those in government. Let the people vote. Let us express our thoughts. It all seems so underhanded and behind the scenes. All of sudden, boom, there it is a special session. I do not support Governor Abercrombie, President Obama and any of you who will allow this session or bill to pass without the entire state voting. That is what a special session truly is. That is how this country was founded and is still a basic premise of democracy. Apparently not in Honolulu, Hawaii. I OPPOSE THIS BILL!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: jeffhirst@quixnet.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:31:47 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jeff	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I do not believe this topic warrents a special session convene. Topics like this should be scheduled and debated during normal sessions.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: lroller@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:49:25 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
James Roller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Our names are James and Lorrie Roller, and we want to reach out to you to express our serious concerns about the upcoming bill for same-sex marriage. We implore you to read the research from the state of Massachuetts detailing the harm same sex marriage has created since legalized. There have been negative impacts in the public schools, public health, hospitals, domestic violence, business and employment, adoption, First Amendment violations such as freedom of religion and speech and of course within the families themselves. We are charged with protecting our children and preserving their futures. Destroying the nucleus of the family unit and redefining an institution that is necessary to the rearing of healthy and productive children is what same sex marriage would bring to Hawaii, and you will have that legacy on your watch. We urgently, and strongly ask you to reconsider your position on this issue and vote NO. Additionally we request that a “roll call” vote be taken. Thank you for your continued public service.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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What same-sex "marriage" has done to Massachusetts
It's far worse than most people realize

by Brian Camenker October 2008 Updated June 2012

http://www.massresistance.org/docs/marriage/effects_of_ssm_2012/SSM_Mass_2012.pdf

Anyone who thinks that same-sex ÒmarriageÓ is a benign eccentricity which wonÕt affect the average person should consider what it has done to Massachusetts since 2004. ItÕs become a hammer to force the acceptance and normalization of homosexuality on everyone. The slippery slope is real. New radical demands never cease. What has happened in the last several years is truly frightening.

On November 18, 2003, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court announced its Goodridge opinion, declaring that it was unconstitutional not to allow same-sex Òmarriage.Ó Six months later, despite public outrage, homosexual ÒweddingsÓ began to take place. And that was just the beginning . . .

The public schools

The homosexual ÒmarriageÓ onslaught in public schools across the state started soon after the November 2003 court ruling.

¥ At my own children's high school there was a school-wide assembly to celebrate same-sex ÒmarriageÓ in early December 2003. It featured an array of speakers, including teachers at the school who announced that they would be ÒmarryingÓ their same-sex partners and starting families, either through adoption or artificial insemination. Literature on same-sex marriage Ð how it is now a normal part of society Ð was handed out to the students.
¥ Within months it was brought into the middle schools. In September 2004, an 8th- grade teacher in Brookline, Mass., told National Public Radio that the marriage ruling had opened up the door for teaching homosexuality. ÒIn my mind, I know that, ÔOK, this is legal now.' If somebody wants to challenge me, I'll say, ÔGive me a break. It's legal now,'Ó she told NPR. She added that she now discusses gay sex with her students as explicitly as she desires. For example, she said she tells the kids that lesbians can have vaginal intercourse using sex toys.
¥ By the following year it was in elementary school curricula Ð with hostility toward parents who disagreed. Kindergartners in Lexington, Mass. were given copies of a picture book, WhoÕs in a Family?, telling them that same-sex couples are just another kind of family, just like their own parents. When David Parker Ð parent of a kindergartner Ð calmly refused to leave a school meeting unless officials agreed to notify him when discussing homosexuality or transgenderism with his son, the school had him arrested and jailed overnight.
¥ The next year, second graders at the same school were read a book, King and King, about

two men who fall in love and marry each other, ending with a picture of them kissing. When parents Robb and Robin Wirthlin complained, they were told that the school had no obligation to notify them or allow them to opt their child out.

¥ In 2007 a federal judge ruled that because of Ògay marriageÓ in Massachusetts, parents have no rights regarding the teaching of homosexual relationships in schools. The previous year the Parkers and Wirthlins had filed a federal civil rights lawsuit to force the schools to notify parents and allow them to opt out their elementary- school children when homosexual-related subjects were taught. The federal judge dismissed the case. The appeals judges later upheld the first judgeÕs ruling that because same-sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts, the school actually had a duty to normalize homosexual relationships to children; and schools have no obligation to notify parents or let them opt out their children. Acceptance of homosexuality had become a matter of good citizenship!
Think about that: Because same-sex marriage is Òlegal,Ó federal judges have ruled that the schools now have a duty to portray homosexual relationships as normal to children, despite what parents think or believe!

The judges also allowed the school to overrule the Massachusetts parental notification law on this issue, with the claim that homosexuality or same-sex marriages are not Òhuman sexuality issuesÓ (to which the law refers).

¥ School libraries have also radically changed. School libraries across the state, from elementary school to high school, now have expanding shelves of books to normalize homosexual

behavior and ÒlifestyleÓ in the minds of kids, some

♀
of them quite explicit and even pornographic. ParentsÕ complaints are ignored or met with hostility.

¥ A large, slick hardcover book celebrating Massachusetts homosexual marriages began to appear in many school libraries across the state. Titled Courting Equality, it was supplied to schools by a major homosexual activist organization. Its apparent purpose was to teach kids that Ògay marriageÓ was a great civil rights victory.
¥ It has become commonplace in Massachusetts schools for teachers to display photos of their same-sex ÒspousesÓ and occasionally bring their ÒspousesÓ to school functions. At one point, both high schools in my own town had principals who were ÒmarriedÓ to their same-sex partners who came to school and were introduced

to the students.
¥ ÒGay daysÓ in schools are considered necessary to fight ÒintoleranceÓ against same- sex relationships. Hundreds of high schools and even middle schools across the state now hold Ògay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender days.Ó In my own town, a school committee member announced that combating ÒhomophobiaÓ was now a top priority. The schools not only ÒcelebrateÓ homosexual marriage, but have moved beyond to promote other behaviors such as cross-dressing and transsexuality.

¥ As a result, many more children in Massachusetts appear to be self-identifying as Ògay.Ó According to the Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey, given to students in high schools across the state, between 2005 and 2009 both the percentage of kids Òidentifying as gayÓ and who had same-sex contact rose by approximately 50%. Although this bi-annual survey is unscientific and largely unreliable, it still shows a disturbing trend among those students who chose to answer the questions in this way. (At a minimum, it implies that these answers are being encouraged.)
¥ Once homosexuality is normalized, all boundaries begin to come down. The schools have already moved on to normalizing transgenderism (including cross-dressing and sex changes). The state-funded Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth, which goes into schools with homosexual and transgender programs and activities for children, includes prominent activists who are transsexuals.
¥ In 2006 a cross-dressing man undergoing a sex-change operation was brought into a third-grade class in Newton to teach the children that there are now Òdifferent kinds of families.Ó School officials told a mother that her complaints to the principal were considered Òinappropriate behaviorÓ! She ended up removing her child from the school.

Public health

¥ The Commissioner of the Mass. Dept. of Public Health, who is "married" to another man, told a crowd of kids at the state-sponsored Youth Pride event in 2007 that itÕs Òwonderful being gayÓ and he wants to make sure thereÕs enough HIV testing available for all of them.
¥ The STD test required to obtain a marriage license was eliminated five months after same-sex ÒmarriagesÓ began in Massachusetts, by a bill quietly signed by Gov. Mitt Romney. This was despite an increase in syphilis cases and other STDs in homosexual men in Massachusetts at the time (according to the Mass. Dept. of Public Health).
¥ In recent years state funding for HIV/AIDS programs has gone up considerably in Massachusetts, along with the proportion of

homosexual-related cases. According to the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health, even though the total number of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses has declined, the proportion caused by male homosexual behavior rose by over 30% from 2000-2009. Thus, for the last several years the state has budgeted $30-$35 million per year for these programs. This dwarfs spending on any other viral disease that we are aware of.
¥ A hideously obscene booklet on ÒgayÓ practices created by health officials was given out in a high school. Citing Òthe right to marryÓ as one of the Òimportant challengesÓ in a place where ÒitÕs a great time to be gay,Ó the Mass. Dept. of Public Health helped the AIDS Action Committee produce The Little Black Book: Queer in the 21st Century. It was given to teens at Brookline High School on April 30, 2005. Among other things, it gives ÒtipsÓ to boys on how to perform oral sex on other males, masturbate other males, and how to ÒsafelyÓ have someone urinate on you for sexual pleasure. It even included a directory of bars in Boston where young men meet for anonymous sex.
Hospitals

¥ Because of the purported necessity to cater to ÒLGBT healthÓ issues, nearly every major Boston hospital has become an active supporter of the radical homosexual movement. This includes marching in the ÒGay PrideÓ parades, holding homosexual events, and
♀
putting on numerous Ògay healthÓ-related seminars. This is one of the most disturbing things thatÕs happened since Ògay marriageÓ became Òlegal.Ó

¥ A major Boston hospital threatened to fire a physician when he objected to its promotion of homosexual behavior. In 2011 a prominent physician at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston Ð a large Harvard-affiliated hospital Ð objected to the hospital being involved with ÒGay PrideÓ activities. He also pointed out to his superiors the medical health risks of homosexuality, and said that he and others at the hospital considered homosexual acts to be unnatural and immoral. The hospital then threatened to fire him, telling him that same-sex marriage is ÒlegalÓ and that his comments constituted Òharassment and discrimination.Ó After a ÒhearingÓ he was allowed to keep his job, but was told to apologize and to keep his opinions on these matters to himself.
¥ In 2012 the Boston Medical Center purchased a prominent full-color ad (full page, inside cover) in the Boston Gay Pride guide book. The content? The entire ad promoted the hospitalÕs STD and AIDS clinics for the ÒprideÓ participants Ð particularly its screening services for gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, hepatitis, and HIV.

Domestic violence

¥ Every year more state money goes to deal with the high incidence of homosexual domestic violence. Since Ògay marriageÓ began, Massachusetts has one of the highest proportions of homosexuals living as couples in the country. Given the extremely dysfunctional nature of homosexual relationships, the Massachusetts Legislature has felt the need to spend more and more money to deal with that problem. ÒGay domestic violence programsÓ have also become a major lobbying push in the State House by the homosexual group MassEquality. This year it comprises a considerable portion of a $5.5 million state budget item (according to MassEquality). This is up from $100,000 budgeted in 2007.
¥ ÒGay domestic partner violenceÓ literature (funded by the state) is now distributed at virtually every public homosexual event Ð including to children at ÒYouth PrideÓ events, GLSEN conferences, Ògay straight allianceÓ high school clubs Ð and especially at the various events and parades during ÒGay PrideÓ week.
¥ It has become such a problem that a public candlelight vigil in downtown Boston is held every year by a coalition of Massachusetts homosexual groups Òto remember victims of recent LGBT intimate partner violence, and to raise awareness of this important community issue.Ó

Business and employment

¥ All insurance in Massachusetts must now recognize same-sex ÒmarriedÓ couples in their coverage. This includes auto insurance, health insurance, life insurance, etc.
¥ Businesses must recognize same-sex ÒmarriedÓ couples in all their benefits, activities, etc., regarding both employees and customers.

¥ People can now get fired from their jobs for expressing religious objections to same-sex Òmarriage.Ó In 2009, a deputy manager at a Brookstone store in Boston was fired from his job for mentioning his belief to another manager who had kept bringing up the subject with him that day. BrookstoneÕs letter of termination (quoted on local TV news) said his comment was ÒinappropriateÓ because Òin the State of Massachusetts, same-sex marriage is legal.Ó
¥ The wedding industry is required to serve the homosexual community if requested. Wedding photographers, halls, caterers, etc., must accept same-sex marriage events or be held liable for discrimination.
¥ Businesses are often ÒtestedÓ for tolerance by homosexual activists. Groups of homosexual activists go into restaurants or bars and publicly kiss and fondle each other to test whether the establishment demonstrates sufficient ÒequalityÓ

Ñ now that homosexual marriage is Òlegal.Ó Then they report Òtolerance violatorsÓ to authorities, and businesses can be fined and punished. In fact, more and more overt displays of homosexual affection are seen in public places across the state to reinforce "marriage equality."
Legal profession and judicial system

¥ The Massachusetts Bar Exam now tests lawyers on their knowledge of same-sex marriage "law." In 2007, a Boston man failed the Massachusetts bar exam because he refused to answer a question about homosexual marriage.
¥ In many firms, lawyers in Massachusetts practicing family law must now attend seminars on homosexual "marriage." Issues regarding homosexual ÒfamiliesÓ are now firmly entrenched in the Massachusetts legal system. In addition, there are now several homosexual judges overseeing the Massachusetts family courts.
¥ In 2011 the Governor appointed Barbara Lenk, a ÒmarriedÓ lesbian activist, to be a state Supreme Court Justice. She has said that the ♀ interpretation of law Òevolves and developsÓ because Òminority groups [e.g., homosexuals] see certain things differently based on their own experiences.Ó

Adoption and birth certificates

¥ In the year after the Ògay marriageÓ ruling, the stateÕs adoption and foster care workers went through a massive indoctrination on ÒLGBT youth awareness.Ó This included employees and managers at the Mass. Dept. of Social Services. These sessions were run by the radical National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (which once awarded a ÒLeather Leadership AwardÓ to the owner of a pornographic video company). The emphasis was that those working with children must be trained that homosexuality (and transgenderism) are normal. At one session, the trainer announced that the new motto is, ÒTo tolerate is an assault; you have to acceptÓ this behavior.
¥ Homosexual ÒmarriedÓ couples can now demand to be allowed to adopt children Ð through any agency. In 2006 Catholic Charities decided to abandon handling adoptions rather submit to regulations requiring them to allow homosexuals to adopt the children in their care.
¥ Adoption agencies have said that 40% of their adoptions are to homosexual couples. Anecdotal reports also indicate that many adoption agencies now favor homosexuals over normal couples.

¥ In 2006 the Massachusetts Department of Social Services (DSS) honored two men ÒmarriedÓ to each other as their ÒParents of the Year.Ó The men had adopted a baby through DSS (against

the wishes of the babyÕs birth parents). According to news reports, the day after that adoption was final, DSS approached the men about adopting a second child.
¥ The state-funded Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) has been pushing ÒGLBTÓ family formation and holds Òadoption partiesÓ where homosexual couples have been encouraged to attend (along with others) and see ÒavailableÓ children in person. MARE places prominent ads in GLBT publications.
¥ Birth certificates in Massachusetts have been changed from ÒmotherÓ and ÒfatherÓ to Òmother/parentÓ and Òfather/parent.Ó Two men or two women can now be listed as the ÒparentsÓ on birth certificates! Homosexuals who adopt can revise childrenÕsÕ existing birth certificates.
¥ A court ruled in 2012 that if a child is Òborn of a same-sex marriage,Ó there is no need for adoption by a non-biological parent. Thus, they would both be the listed as the ÒparentsÓ on the childÕs birth certificate, without any formal proceedings necessary. (The other biological parent is not noted on the official birth certificate.)

Government mandates

¥ Marriage licenses and certificates in Massachusetts now have ÒParty AÓ and ÒParty BÓ instead of ÒhusbandÓ and Òwife.Ó Imagine having a marriage license like that.
¥ In 2004, Governor Mitt Romney ordered Justices of the Peace to perform homosexual marriages when requested or be fired. Several Justices of the Peace immediately decided to resign. That order still stands. Also Town Clerks were forced by the GovernorÕs office to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.
¥ In 2008 Massachusetts changed the state Medicare laws to include homosexual ÒmarriedÓ couples in the coverage.
The public square

¥ Since gay ÒmarriageÓ began, public ÒGay PrideÓ events have become more prominent in the public square. There are more politicians and corporations participating, and even police organizations take part. And the envelope gets pushed further and further. For example: the annual profane ÒDyke MarchÓ through downtown Boston, and the 2008 ÒtransgenderÓ parade in Northampton that included bare-chested women who have had their breasts surgically removed (so they could ÒbecomeÓ men). Governor Patrick even marched with his 17-year-old Òout lesbianÓ daughter in the 2008 Boston Pride event, right behind a sadomasochist ÒleatherÓ group brandishing a black and blue flag, lashes and chains!
Churches being harassed

Churches and religious people have been demonized, harassed and threatened Ð with no punishment

for the perpetrators. Since the Ògay marriageÓ ruling, those who publicly disagree with Ògay marriageÓ or the normalcy of homosexuality Ð or hold events promoting traditional beliefs Ð are targets of militant retribution by homosexual activists. Police and public officials have shown no interest in stopping this. We are not aware of a single homosexual activist arrested (or charged with any Òhate crimeÓ) for disrupting a religious event or threatening and harassing people at a church. For example:

¥ In 2012 someone threatened to burn down a Catholic Church in Acushnet which posted the words ÒTwo men are friends, not spousesÓ on its outdoor sign. The church immediately
♀
received a flood of profane phone calls. At least one person threatened to burn down the church. An activist nailed a sign to churchÕs fence saying, ÒSpread love not hate.Ó Activists staged a protest outside of the Sunday Mass to intimidate parishioners with a sign saying, ÒIt is legal for two men or women to be spouses.Ó Neither the police nor the District Attorney pursued the threats as a hate crime or other offense.

¥ In 2010 a Catholic elementary school balked at letting a lesbian couple enroll their son. As a result, the school was excoriated in the media and even by the local liberal state representative as Òdiscriminatory.Ó The privately-run Catholic Schools Foundation then threatened to withhold funding to the school unless it relented. The Archdiocese eventually backed down and the school reversed its policy.
¥ In 2009 angry homosexual activists terrorized the Park Street Church in Boston while it was holding an ex-gay religious training session inside. They demonstrated next to the doors and windows with signs, screaming homosexual slogans. One of them held a bullhorn against the window outside the meeting, bellowing at the participants inside. Police did nothing to stop them, even though they were standing inside the historic cemetery adjacent to the church.
¥ In 2006 dozens of screaming homosexual activists drowned out the speakers at an outdoor pro-marriage rally in Worcester organized by Catholic Vote, yelling ÒBigotsÓ and disgusting chants. Police did not stop them, even though the rally had a permit. When one of the rioters rushed the stage and started shouting, a rally organizer tried to lead her to the side. She subsequently sued that organizer for assault! He went through a four-day trial and was acquitted by a jury. But no charges were filed against any of the rioters.
¥ In 2006 a group of homosexual activists with signs taunted and screamed at people entering and leaving the Tremont Temple Baptist Church in downtown Boston, which was holding a nationally televised pro-marriage event

inside.
¥ In 2005 hundreds of homosexual activists terrorized the Tremont Temple Baptist Church with makeshift coffins, screaming obscenities through loudspeakers as the national pro-family group Focus on the Family held a religious conference inside. The crowd was so threatening that attendees could not leave the church for the lunch break. The Boston riot police stood in front of the church doors, but did nothing to disperse the protesters who were also completely blocking the street.
The media

¥ The Boston media regularly features articles and news stories using homosexual ÒmarriedÓ couples where regular married couples would normally be used. ItÕs Òequal,Ó they insist, so there must be no difference in how marriage is portrayed. Also, the newspaper advice columns now deal with homosexual "marriage" issues Ð and how to properly accept it.
¥ A number of news reporters and TV anchors are ÒoutÓ homosexuals (at least one openly ÒmarriedÓ) who march in the ÒGay PrideÓ parades and publicly participate in other homosexual events.
Politics

¥ A climate of fear has kept politicians at all levels from disagreeing with or criticizing same-sex marriage since it became Òlegal.Ó Public officials are afraid of being accused of wanting to Òtake away rights.Ó Those who support traditional marriage rarely discuss it publicly. And this fear has expanded to suppress any meaningful debate on all homosexual related issues. Additionally, it has brought a feeling of intimidation among pro-family people across the state.
¥ The Massachusetts Republican establishment has become arguably the most Òpro-gay marriageÓ GOP in America. The state GOP House and Senate leaders now both publicly support Ògay marriage,Ó as did the recent Mass. GOP candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor. GOP candidates for office are told not even to discuss it.
¥ In April 2009, the Chairman of the Mass. Republican Party told a homosexual newspaper that the GOP would no longer oppose Ògay marriage.Ó Then Chairman Jennifer Nassour, interviewed on the front page of Bay Windows, assured the gay community that the state GOP would Òsteer clear of socialÓ issues such as Òopposition to same-sex marriage and abortion.Ó The newly elected chairman, Bob Maginn, does not talk about the issue.
¥ Every Massachusetts state-wide elected official and member of Congress (but one) now publicly supports Ògay marriage.Ó The one (apparent) holdout, Republican US Senator Scott Brown, strenuously avoids the issue, saying that itÕs Òsettled lawÓ and not worth fighting over.
Rule of law

¥ Same-sex ÒmarriageÓ came to Massachusetts through a radical courtÕs narrow ruling. Because of that, there is an often depressing sense of helplessness that pervades this issue. The marriage statute was never changed, and it

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has been convincingly argued that the whole process was in violation of the state constitution. The Governor simply went along. And the Legislature acted to block popular votes on two separate constitutional amendments protecting marriage, after sufficient signatures had been gathered for each. The rule of law seems further lost with every new outrage imposed on the people.

¥ Even the Massachusetts Law Library (online) shows no law legalizing same-sex marriage, only a court opinion. It is a dangerous precedent to allow such sweeping judicial activism to stand as law, enabling everything that has followed from it. It should serve as a warning to states across the country.
In conclusion

Same-sex ÒmarriageÓ hangs over society, hammering citizens with the force of law. Once it gets a foothold, society becomes more oppressive. Unfortunately, it was imposed on the people of Massachusetts through a combination of radical,

arrogant judges and pitifully cowardly politicians. The homosexual movement has used that combination to its continued advantage around the country.

ItÕs pretty clear that this radical movement is obsessed with marriage not because large numbers of homosexuals actually want to marry each other. A small percentage actually Òmarry.Ó (In fact, over the last several months, the Sunday Boston GlobeÕs marriage section hasnÕt had any photos of homosexual marriages; at first it was full of them.) Research shows that homosexualsÕ relationships are fundamentally dysfunctional on many levels, and real ÒmarriageÓ as we know it isnÕt something they can achieve, or even truly desire.

The push for Ògay marriageÓ is really is about putting the legal stamp of approval on homosexuality and forcing its acceptance on (otherwise unwilling) citizens and our social, political, and commercial institutions.

To the rest of America: You've been forewarned.

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All of this concerns Massachusetts!

So what would happen in Hawai!i public schools if homosexual "marriage" became the law?

Here is the answer in the words of our own Governor# Neil Abercrombie:

At his news conference marking the day he called for the special session$
Monday#
% October#
&'()
* Office of the Governor:

QUESTION FROM A NEWS REPORTER:

"Do you expect that same sex marriage, if it passesÉwill change the Department of Education andhow they instruct students on relationships and those types of things?"

ANSWER FROM THE GOVERNOR:

"The Department of Education will do no differently than it has ever done. I was an assistant to the Superintendent
of Education (sic) back when the question of the phenomenon of AIDS came into the forefront.

"What the Department of Education will do is reflect what our laws say; what our contemporary world is all
about, as it always has.

"When there was slavery, it reflected one thing. When there wasn't slavery it reflected another. When
women could not vote, there was one approach in terms of both history and current events. When women
could vote, as you know, it all changed.

"And so civil rights, for those of us who helped participate in the modern contemporary advent of civilrights legislation; everything changed when the civil rights laws passed in the 1960's.

"So what will happen is, the Department of Education is not in the business of propagandizing; theDepartment of Education is in the business of educating our children and the context of the materials
presented to the children will reflect that."

♀

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: metcalf@hawaiilink.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:30:15 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
christopher metcalf	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: It really concerns me that we are not concerned about the family. To have "love" be the guiding light is troubling. Especially w hen we define love as getting what we want. Love is about "giving" and thinking less of one self and what will honestly make the marriage partner, husband or wife, better. PLEASE for the sake of our families let's allow the PEOPLE to decide.

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SB 1 testimony 10-23-13

I oppose the legalization of so called same sex marriage for a variety of reasons, one of which is just plain common sense. The human race has survived for thousands of years without homosexual marriage so there is no logical reason why the state of Hawaii has to force the issue within a 5 day window without considering the will of all of the people of Hawaii.

This issue is being forced by a few vocal minorities. If they are right and the public at large really does want homosexual marriage legalized then put it on the ballot next election and let the people decide.

The vocal minority pushing for this legalization doesn't want the people of Hawaii to decide since they know it's NOT the will of the people of Hawaii. If it's not the will of the people of Hawaii, then voting to legalize it would be a crime since the elected officials are voting their conscience not the will of the people that let them be in office. We voters will remember that next election and many elected officials will find themselves out of work.

The senate bill offering to protect clergy does nothing to protect the religious rights of the non-clergy. The state is in effect imposing its will on non-clergy by telling them their religious beliefs are null and void, so unless the people as a whole decide on this issue the state will trample on the fundamental religious rights of non-clergy. These non-clergy rights include state workers who would not want to teach an abnormal lifestyle to young innocent children, business owners who would not want to offer services to those who they disagree with life choices.

Let the people of Hawaii decide on the issue next election with a special vote on the election ballots and see what Hawaii really wants.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: janittz@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:04:25 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Ian Nitta	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha Governor Abercrombie, members of the House and Senate, and all in attendance during the special session, With great concern, I write regarding the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. I solemnly know that marriage is ordained of God, who I know lives, and is and always will be between a man and a women, as the foundation of the family which is the most important unit in society. We cannot change that truth and surely God doth not change his word. I testify that God lives and He is the creator of all people, male and female, old and young, bond and free. I know that God has given us agency, to choose liberty and life through the great mediator, even Jesus Christ, the very Son of God and Savior of all mankind, or to choose captivity and death which cometh by failing to keep the laws and commandments of God Almighty. I thank the founding fathers of this nation for fighting for our ability to choose liberty through faith in God. I rejoice in that religious freedom and declare my strong opposition to recognize same-sex marriages as a legal union in the state of Hawaii. I pray that you too also seek answer from God and do as He bids you do above all other things. As the patriarch and leader of my own house, I act each day in faith that God will teach me what is best for my family. I ask that you act likewise in representing our people. I do understand that our state, being blessed with democracy, will act upon the majority voice of its leaders regarding the passing of the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. I strongly feel that the bill, in its current formation, does not adequately protect our rights to freedom of religion. I ask that regardless of the outcome that our rights to freedom of religion are protected with the same conviction as our founding fathers, with fear in God, and through struggle in prayer. As a citizen of this great country of America I pray that as a nation we continue to do that which is right in the sight of God, who lives. That we seek with earnest prayer for the strength to do what God's Spirit prompts us to do always and that we as a nation can uphold the truths taught to us by the Spirit of God, that same Spirit that burns within my heart as I write this letter and the same Spirit that will guide you as you lead our people. God be with you and all of us. May God continue to grant unto our nation the ability to act for ourselves, to choose liberty through keeping His laws and commandments, and to live by faith. Thank you. Sincerely, Ian Isamu Nitta A fellow citizen in the blessed State of Hawaii

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From: kkita1000 .
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: We Oppose This Discrininatory Bill
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:08:57 AM

Most Honorable Legislators,

I believe I speak for many of the working people of the community who cannot attend this hearing because of work obligations, but want to voice OPPOSITION to this bill because it does not protect our individual first amendment right to freedom of expression and practice of our religious beliefs! this is another form of DISCRIMINATION and this special session is too short of a time to really look at all sides of the issue and come up with a fair balance. Please DO NOT RUSH to a decision out of political expediency!

Thank you for taking time to consider my views!

Much Aloha,

Kent Kitagawa
98-1440 Koaheahe Street, Apt. A
Pearl City HI 96782

Phone:456-8985

From: Hope Chapel North Shore
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Please no special session
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:40:46 PM

Let the people's voices be heard ! Do you remember - of the people, by the people, for the people !
In 1998 the ballot question to voters was "Shall the Constitution of the State of Hawaii be amended to specify that the Legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples?"
The people decided in 1998, the people must decide today. We did not give the Legislatures the power to redefine marriage, rather, reserve it for opposite sex couples only.

Serving Our King, Dennis

Dennis Le Fort
Hope Chapel North Shore
808-575-2650 | aloha@hopechapelnorthshore.org |
http://www.hopechapelnorthshore.org
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/hopehaiku

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Hope Chapel North Shore, PO Box 867, Haiku HI 96708

From:	l&h huyler
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Cc:	hw huyler yahoo
Subject:	I oppose same sex marriage.
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:13:08 AM

I oppose same sex marriage.
Homosexual and lesbian couples spawn unwanted behaviors and characteristics for a family environment. (1) Homosexual behavior brought us into the world of AIDS and HIV, together with the spread to pregnant women and their unborn children. We need to be aware of this conduct in the Nations in Africa and over the world. (2) Children raised in a honmosexual or lesbian couple's household take on the charactersitics of their "parents" since those are the role models with whom they have the closest replationship.

H Huyler, Hawaii
Life will take us to the stars!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: ptsrmkona@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:21:35 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
James Texeira	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am against this bill and the special session. I feel that it infringes on our rights as a church to speak freely what we believe. I would like to see this taken to a vote and let the people decide the same way we did in the past with a constitutional amendment. If the people decide to go with the marriage equity bill I can live with that. But not in a special session.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	ljohnpuhek@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:41:35 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
L John Puhek	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: A basic Law of Nature is that opposite sexes are designed for procreation. Same Sex "Marriage" defies this basic phenomenon, and does NOT justify changing the dictionary definition, which has been consistent with Nature's Law & religions for hundreds if not thousands of years. "Civil Union" can give same sex partners equal treatment under our Civil Laws. Don't mess with Mother Nature & maintain Religious Freedom.

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Testimony of Patricia Hanson Hubner

Submitted on Oct 23, 2013

RE: Opposition to using a special session of the legislature for the proposed Marriage Equality Bill AG 9.9.13

Dear Legislators,

I believe that a special session is not the forum for the people of Hawai'i to fairly discuss and consider the far reaching effects of the proposed Marriage Equality Bill AG 9.9.13.

Multiple red flags are going off as to why the governor wants to bypass the normal legislative process and rush this bill through a special session of the legislature. The people of Hawai'i and their children and generations to come will be affected by the proposed Marriage Equality Bill and we deserve to have this issue be treated fairly and with full consideration from all points of view and this cannot be done in a 5-day special session.

Assumptions that same sex marriage (not a civil union but a marriage) is supported by the majority of the people of Hawai'I <u>is an assumption</u> and deserves to be put straight forwardly to the people by letting the people vote on it. Let the people of Hawai'I be heard and do not make a mockery of our democratic system of government by rushing this bill through a special session.

I also believe that the governor's bill erodes our First Amendment Right of Freedom of Religion by not protecting church facilities. Churches are an integral part of any community and therefore are a "place of public accommodation." The cherished privilege of all Americans to be protected to worship as they wish is not protected in the governor's bill.

I plead with our legislators to cancel the special session, especially since now there are other topics (Kaua'i health care, etc) that the governor is tacking onto to the work of this special session! Use the legislative process that is already in place! Use the regular legislative session to discuss this issue or put the issue of Marriage Equality to the vote of the people of Hawai'i!

Mahalo nui loa,

Patricia H Hubner

18-2052 Ohia Nani Rd, Mt View, HI 96771

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: ulutonga@go.byuh.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:05:39 PM
Attachments: testimony.docx

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
uluakimata tonga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	akiuk001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:11:16 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
kelly akiu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: aloha, this is not an equal rights issue this is an issue of a people group who by choice want the rest of THIS State to conform to their choice and so doing validate their behavior. Being gay and living an alternative lifestyle is A CHOICE not a RIGHT!!! As humans we do not have a choice what ancestry we are born into nor a chouce as to what gender we are born BUT IT IS A FREE WILL CHOICE what gender you choose to have relations. MAN is Created for WOMAN and vice versa, THIS IS THE NATURAL ORDER OF ALL THINGS: ying & Yang, negative & positive. It is fine for those to choose this way but do not destroy MORALITY, GOOD ORDER of our Hawaii to validate their lifestyle. MUCH OVER WHERE IS MY RIGHT AS A PARENT & GRANDPARENT to monitor the quality of education and what my children & grands are exposed to???? Where is the right for our keiki to know what is true when alternatives are given rights all the way to early education, I am just appauled and disgusted to think of the ramifications. Truly, I will remove my children from any public educational system no matter the cost! its not about being ridiculously religious but just maintaining a decorum of decency!!! IF ever I begged it would be for this PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE do not pass this request...give them the benefits which they already have why turn everything upside down to satisfy this people group???? think of tomorrow your keiki, grands and all those there after! our Hawaiian kupuna, Kings and Queens are aghast at what is becoming of their Hawaii...

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October 23, 2013

To The Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing concerning the upcoming special session on the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. My purpose is not to take a stand for or against homosexuality itself, but to express a deep concern regarding how religious freedoms will be impacted by this bill. While I understand the intent of this legislation draws from a common human goal of eliminating persecution, discrimination, and marginalization of all members of society, it does not make sufficient efforts to protect the rights of persons of faith to follow their own conscious without interference from, or the threat of litigation by, those who disagree.

While the current bill includes some weak protections for those who solemnize weddings, I believe this will do little to curb litigious attacks against freedom of religious expression. The law must allow any individual or business, public accommodation or not, to refuse to engage in any activity, including the provision of goods or services, if such activity may be reasonably construed as a display of support for events with which they do not agree. To not protect this fundament right of expression will effectively compel compliance with a particular system of morality. This is not the role of government, and it may not even be the intent of those who drafted this bill. If the issue is to enhance tolerance for all people regardless of who they are, this cannot be resolved if the remedy effectively shifts attacks from one group to another. To do so will only intensify the fight and lead to further division. We cannot heal wounds or build bridges by redirecting harm.

Yet the experiences of other states tell us this will be the result if these protections are not strengthened. Examples are many, and here I provide three.

1. In Oregon, private business owners Aaron and Melissa Klein were forced to close their bakery in the face of threats of harm from supporters of same-sex marriage after they declined to provide a cake for a same-gendered wedding.[1]
2. In New Mexico, Elane Photography was successfully sued for declining to photograph a solemnization ceremony between same-sex partners.[2]
3. In Iowa, legislation is pending regarding punitive action against a Mennonite couple, Betty and Richard Odgaard, for refusing to host a same-sex wedding at their art gallery.[3]

Although there are perhaps extremists on the fringe of the gay-rights movement (or any movement, for that matter) who intentionally seek to harm those with whom they disagree, I believe that most

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[1] See n.a. "Sweet Cakes By Melissa, Oregon Bakery That Denied Gay Couple A Wedding Cake, Closes Shop," *The Huffington Post*, Sep. 2, 2013 or Billy Hallowell, "'Bible-Thumping…B**ch': Bakers Who Refused to Make Gay Couple's Wedding Cake Shut Down Their Shop Following Threats, Anger," *The Blaze*, Sep. 2, 2013

[2] See Martha C. White, "Wedding companies that shun gays feel impact, for better or worse," *NBC News*, Oct. 14, 2013 or Doug Mataconis, "Court Holds That Wedding Photographer Cannot Refuse Service To Gay Couples," *Outside the Beltway,* Aug. 23, 2013.

[3] See Cheryl Chumley, "Mennonites Countersue Gay Couple for Right to Delay Wedding," *The Washington Times*, Oct. 14, 2013 or n.a. "Mennonite couple files counter-lawsuit in fear of being forced to host same-sex weddings," *Fox News*, Oct. 14, 2013

reasonable people on all sides would be disturbed to see the damage to the livelihood of those exercising their right to free expression as a result of legislation which is claimed to reduce discrimination. Now, the laws in some of these states actually include stronger protections for religious expression than Hawaii's proposed bill, yet even these protections have proven insufficient.

In these and many other examples, those under attack are not discriminating by refusing service based on a person's sexual orientation, but rather are declining to take an active supporting role in events with which they disagree. Discrimination against any *person* is wrong. However, declining to participate in *activities and events* that one finds morally objectionable is not discrimination, it is protecting one's own freedom of expression. It's a subtle, but critical, distinction. We must not provide a legal club to supporters of any moral philosophy that can be used to beat persons they disagree with into submission. The moral issues are important, but should be decided through individual expression and private debate, not through legal actions that side with particular belief systems.

Certainly, discrimination of any form is damaging to society, but so is forcibly compelled morality. Yet these goals need not be in conflict. Coexistence and non-discrimination necessarily entails mutual toleration. Morality cannot – it must not – be dictated or imposed by governments, churches, lawyers, judges, or anyone else. People must have the freedom to believe according to their own conscience, to follow their own faith, and to choose their own actions. This fundamental human right must be actively protected. The present bill does not.

Now, it has come to my attention that letters similar to this one have been dismissed because they do not provide wording to be included in the bill. To avoid similar dismissal I would propose the following changes to the current bill, or their equivalent.

- §572-G: Remove "provided that:" from line 5, and delete all lines 6 through 12 and lines 18 – 21.
- Add paragraph §572-H under Section 2 to read: "<u>Protections for the freedom of religious expression:</u> Pursuant to Amendment I of the United States Constitution forbidding any law which prohibits the free exercise of religion, nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require any private individual or business to engage in an activity, including the provision of goods or services, if such activity may reasonably be construed as an expression of support of same-gender marriage contrary to personal religious beliefs."

It would then be acceptable to me to leave the interpretation of "expression of support" up to individuals and those who represent them in the courts.

I thank you for your consideration of this vital issue concerning fundamental human rights and freedoms. I urge you to take steps to ensure that the Great State of Hawaii avoids the erosion of religious freedoms that is spreading in other states.

With Much Concern,

Stephen Moody
sjmoody@hawaii.edu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: rtemple@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:28:07 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Robin Temple	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I want to support traditional marriage. I have nothing against civil rights for gay partners. If the federal government does not recognize civil unions, we should be rallying the federal legislators to change the laws. It seems a shame to change the definition of marriage after all these centuries (millenia?). Seems like the feds are kind of forcing us to change the definition, and the states are falling in line. Seems like a bad idea to me. At least, please allow safeguards for religious freedom. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: tiaremoana@juno.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:04:04 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Tiare Vainerere	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Don't take away my amendment rights for religious freedom. You're about to open up a can of worms that will create one problem after another if you pass this bill.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: joanniex3@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 1:15:53 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Joan Corrigan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am strongly opposed to the bill being presented in the October 28 special session. To me, it is not just about "equal rights", but about the ripple effect it will have on family and society. There have been tremendous negative impact in states that have already passed same-sex marriage laws and I am very concerned about what it means for our future generations, especially my children.

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From: Henry Lindo
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB 1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:34:09 PM

JDL Committee Members;

I testify that the Committee should vote "NO" on SB 1.

Instead, I move that this Bill "Relating to Equal Rights" should be tabled and moved to be placed on the ballot for the "2014" elections.

The reason for this is I know that the "Silent Majority", of which I consider myself a part of, will not voice their concerns one way or the other directly to their respective elected Representatives.

However, we will turn out at the Voting Polls and make our voices heard on an Amendment "Relating to Equal Rights" that is placed on the ballot.

You are our elected Representatives and I believe that you should put together an amendment for the Public to have their say, especially on an issue which is far reaching and will affect us all in generations to come.

So once again I reiterate my testimony to reflect that I say "NO" to SB 1 "Relating to Equal Rights".

Respectfully submitted by:
Henry A. Lindo
State of Hawaii Resident

From: Lokelani Pila
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: My testimony to oppose SB 1 relating to equal rights
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 2:43:58 PM

Dear Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

Mr. Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Mrs. Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

Measure bill: SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights
Measure number: The Hearing JDL 10-28-13
Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013
Hearing Time: 10:30am

I will not be testifying in person but by email only.

I oppose this bill to recognize extending same rights of natural born opposite-sex marriages to individuals of the same sex who got married outside of Hawaii. Marriage in Hawaii is between a man and wife only. Naturally only opposite - sex couples are naturally able to produce off-spring. For this reason they I believe same-sex relationship are two single individuals with creative sexual relationships and should not be recognized as a married couple.

As it is written in 1 Corinthians 7:2 "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." This obviously is relation to opposite-sex marriage. I am testifying to oppose the bill to recognize marriages between same sex individuals. In the State of Hawaii we legally do not conduct or recognize marriages between same sex individuals and so we should not pass this bill to recognize the equal rights of these out of state unions.

Mahalo,
Ruth Pila

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: pdiazhi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:36:19 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Pat Diaz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The issue goes far beyond simply the private relationship of this or that couple, and its implications will be far reaching and profound. The language of the proponents is meant to convince us that this is a civil rights issue and that anyone who does not agree is bigoted. Do not be led astray with such language, and do not allow yourself to be bullied by it.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: johnandcarlina@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:39:14 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Carlina McCue	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please vote NO on SB1 ~ There is no reason to vote on such a volatile issue in this special session. ~ The democratic process is being circumvented. Let it be vetted properly in regular session. ~ Religious freedoms are being placed in jeopardy by this bill and the public accommodations section will absolutely NOT protect churches. ~ Civil Unions already protect same gender couples. ~ SCOTUS ruled in 2007 that marriage is NOT a civil right! ~ Let the people decide in a constitutional amendment to be voted on in 2014. ~ Again, PLEASE vote NO on SB1. Mahalo

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From: Alberta Joy Freidus-Flagg
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong support for SB1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:58:53 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

The freedom to marry the person you love is a civil right that should not be denied to anyone, nor should it be a ballot issue. Our country is not a theocracy; the separation of church and state must be maintained. I have yet to hear a rational explanation of how permitting same gender couples to marry negatively impacts the lives of others, particularly the lives of those who oppose it.

Please stand for family equality. It is only fair.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Alberta Joy Freidus-Flagg

Alberta Joy Freidus-Flagg
1721-I Young St
Honolulu, HI 96826

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: konashiromas@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:18:02 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Julian Shiroma	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose same sex marriage. I want the people of Hawaii to have the right to vote on this issue.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: cnck58@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:55:48 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Nicole Valdez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: To the State Legislature I urge you to allow the citizens of this great state of Hawaii to vote on this issue. I believe that marriage is between one woman and one man. Let the peoples voices be heard. Let the people vote. Thank you.

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From: Ron Yoshida
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Written testimony in Opposition to Marriage Equality Bill
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 8:01:19 PM

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Ron Yoshida and I am a registered voter in Hawai'i and live at 47-262C Hui Iwa Street, Kaneohe, HI. 96744

Although I stand in opposition to this bill, more importantly I stand in opposition to this PROCESS of trying to pass this bill in a rushed SPECIAL SESSION. I am humbly asking all of you as the Senate Judiciary Committee to please vote "No" on this bill, NOT BECAUSE you don't support Same Sex Marriage, but because this very important and controversial issue SHOULD NOT BE RUSHED through in a Special 5 day Session, but should be discussed in a regular session - which is only 3 months away.

Historically, Special Sessions have been used for emergency situations only (i.e. Super Ferry, 911, Special Budget Items, etc). This Same Sex Marriage Issue is far from an Emergency situation. I believe this special session maneuver DEMONSTRATES A LACK OF RESPECT as well as an ABUSE of our Democratic process. Hawai'i has discussed in length the Civil Unions issue in the past, but we have yet to fully discuss the issue of Same Sex Marriage. The last time we talked about this was in 1998.

I believe that everyone is entitled to their opinion and we all have the right to express it based on our First Amendment right of Freedom of Speech. This rushed 5 day session, will not give adequate time for everyone to express their views. It will not give you as our elected officials adequate time to properly debate the merits of this bill. I believe that to rush this bill through in a surprise move by the Governor is somewhat insulting to the people of Hawaii. In fact, EVEN IF I WAS A SUPPORTER OF Same Sex Marriage, I would not like to have it legalized in this rushed special session fashion. It just wouldn't feel right; it wouldn't be "Pono."

Therefore, I believe legislators can still stand firm and support Same Sex Marriage while voting against the bill in this Special Session BECAUSE A "NO" VOTE would be a vote "AGAINST THE PROCESS" and not against the bill itself. The regular session is just a few months away. Let's wait.

If I may repeat this: FOR LEGISLATORS THAT SUPPORT SAME SEX MARRIAGE, A "NO" VOTE would be a vote "AGAINST THE PROCESS" and not against the bill itself.

In Hawai'i, the phrase "Talk Story" is an important part of our everyday lives. We need more time to "Talk Story" about this very important issue that will affect all of Hawai'i for years to come. I appreciate having this opportunity to write to you. I welcome a call from you to discuss this more. My cell number is 265-5566. Thank you again. And thank you again for serving me, my family, and our beloved Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Ron Yoshida

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: mmoorelvi75@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:16:54 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Samlynn Moore	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: mrspicardal@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:22:26 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Brandi Picardal	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please oppose Same Sex Marriage. Give the people a chance to vote.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: lorenalundquist@me.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 10:29:27 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Lorena Lundquist	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am writing in regards to the same sex equal rights bill. I oppose this as I believe there is only one marriage under God of one man and one woman anything else goes against the laws God has mandated and no other marriage should be equal, Hawaii must stand apart from the politically incorrect way of thinking and do the right thing and vote against same sex marriage rights, how can they have rights when this is WRONG in the eyes of God which our foundation of this Country stands on!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

David J. Fukuzawa – representing myself as a concerned citizen of the State of Hawaii
91-1090 Aawa Drive, Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Telephone: 808-286-4255

Monday, October 28, 2013 – Special Legislative Session 2 for 2013

Senate Bill 1: Marriage Equality in the State of Hawaii

My position on this bill – OPPOSE (Written Testimony Only)

My name is David J. Fukuzawa. I have been legal and voting citizen in the State of Hawaii for 22 years. I am a semi-retired State of Hawaii Correctional Worker. I worked in the state for almost 15 years when I had to retire due to health reasons. I am testifying today in opposition of the proposed legislation regarding Marriage Equality for Same-sex unions.

The reason I am opposed is because by passing this legislation; you will effectively infringe upon the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America. This right allows people to practice or not practice religious faiths as one desires without government intervention in favor of or against. Additionally, you will have caused people to censure what they say from this point forward.

I state this because in the research I conducted regarding how most common religions in the United States have historically almost always exclusively viewed marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Please note the various faith systems I reviewed: Hindu, Islam, Shinto, Buddhism, Tao, Judaism, Wicca, Christianity, Catholic, Mormon, Jehovah Witness, Orthodox Christians. These beliefs in many cases directly refer to the marriage union as one man and one woman, or implied it by dictating how a person is supposed to treat their marriage partner of the opposite sex. By passing any legislation that creates marriage between two people of the same sex; you would infringe upon the values and beliefs of all these different faith systems. The sanctity of marriage has been culturally around since man first started to walk this earth.

As I mentioned earlier, I was a correctional worker. Wouldn't it be a shame to be the legislature who created a bill that could in fact cause one of these clergy or one of their congregants to be locked up and imprisoned because of how they believed and practiced their faith. By doing this you will have effectively censured these people from quoting their religious doctrines. You will cause people to go underground in practicing their faiths. We would essentially become like China.

What concerns me even more; is what would come next. What other inalienable rights would be taken away from the people of Hawaii. I am sure when the Sovereign Nation of Hawaii decided to become democratic from an autocratic society, they never thought about doing this to their people. And I am sure it was the same when Hawaii decided to become a State in the Union.

Please remember we are s state government of the people and run by the people for the people of Hawaii. Lets not change things for a very small minority special interest group (approximately 1/5th of 1%.) Besides, haven't the people of Hawaii already spoken to this issue in 1998, and in 2011 when Civil Unions became law. Let's make the people of Hawaii proud and be pono about this.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion regarding this issue. I do realize the difficulty in having to decide what is best for the people of Hawaii. I sincerely hope that the decision you collectively make will be for the best of all the people in Hawaii in the near and distant future of our state.

Again, I strongly oppose any legislation regarding Marriage Equality for Same Sex unions in the state of Hawaii.

Aloha Hawaii Lawmakers!

Thank you so very much for your service to your respective districts, the State of Hawaii and to this wonderful Country of the United States of America in which we live!

I am requesting that you vote "no" on same sex marriage for the following reasons:

Same sex marriage should not be passed in a special session because:

1. A five or six or seven day session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time.

2. No amendments can be made to legislation. As a result, true democracy is made a mockery of.

3. Hawaii is the only state rushing into special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision. If the need was truly dire, then why haven't the other 34 States that do not permit same-sex marriages done so?

4. A 'yes' vote during special session is a 'no' vote to democracy because the voice of the people is NOT hear in a five, six, or seven day session. And especially if that voice is "amend that bill".

5. The so-called religious exemption language is rendered invalid because of the public accommodations carved out.

6. The people believed that they voted on this issue in 1998. The polls show that Hawaii favors same-sex marriage. So why not let the people vote?

7. Shouldn't special sessions be for emergency situations? Such as you did with 9-11, the Super Ferry, and the budget shortfall? Fiscally speaking, wouldn't Hawaii be best
served if this was brought up during a regular session which is only two months away?

As Legislators, you must respect fundamental democratic principles:

a. The people believed they addressed the issue in 1998, and should be the ones consulted again.

b. Marriage is NOT a civil right. No court (INCLUDING THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) has ever said that it is.

c. A constitutional amendment would better address same-sex marriage and allow for ample public input.

The governor's current bill will NOT protect church facilities (contrary to what he wants you tof believe). If a church offers a public service (such as a preschool, a meeting place for community groups like a neighborhood board, Alcoholics Anonymous, etc...), by definition the church becomes a public accommodation and would be legally obligated to sanction a same-sex marriage if ti were requested.

Even those States that have made same-sex marriage legal, have stronger language in their law to protect the churches from such liability. The wording in the bill that will be in front of you is flawed. I urge you to not to rush into something that will have such a devastating consequence for our communities.

If you are still not convinced, I hope that you will at least give this bill more time. Why a special session? Why the rush? Why spend a few million dollars when the regular session is only a couple of months

away? You will then have more time to hold public hearing on the various islands. And you will have more time to investigate how the other States have protected the churches in their new same-sex marriage laws.

In closing, our Country was birthed out of the principles of being free to worship our Creator and not being oppressed by it's Government. That is why our founding Fathers wrote the U.S. Constitution in that manner. It was to protect our liberties. Again, one in which is the Freedom of Religion. In their wisdom, the Government was to create and uphold just laws while the church was to stand side by side to uphold the moral fabric of our society. If the churches are silenced, we become nothing more that a Socialistic society.

Thank you for taking the time to read this!

Aloha,

Raymond S, Rodrigues III
46 Wawai Loop,
Hilo, Hi. 96720

From:	Bennett, Michael M.
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Right to Vote
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:39:33 AM

My testimony to the committee is simple:

”I want my right to vote on the same-sex marriage bill!!”

Sincerely,

Michael M. Bennett
Kailua Kona

From: ksimmons@hawaiiantel.net
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: No to Senate Bill 1 Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:51:03 AM

Aloha,

I am Kenneth Simmons, born and raised in Hawaii and a retired City employee living in Wahiawa.

I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 1 Relating to Equal Rights. I an not against equal rights but in this case the legislation is trying to give rights to a protected class of people to the detriment of the many. It is redefining marriage in a way that will only result in a continual decay of public morals and perpetuation of a lie that homosexuality is acceptable for all society. I love my dogs more than most people but would never assume that I was born this way and should marry my dog.

To use the argument of economic gain for Hawaii if this bill is passed is wrong. If you take that line then why not approve of prostitution, gambling, and legalization of drugs as all of these would bring money to Hawaii.

I ask that our legislators take a stand against the moral decay of our society. Do what is right in the sight of God and don't let this abomination happen. If necessary let the people decide by sending the question to the polls.

Mahalo for your time.

Kenneth Simmons

Sent from Windows Mail

Kevin T. Brown
P. O. Box 933
Naalehu, HI 96772
808-939-8688
Ktbn101@gmail.com

The Senate Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Attn: Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Capital
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI

Subject: SB 1- Relating to Equal Rights

October 24, 2013

Honorable Chairman:

I have lived in Hawaii since May of 2000, and I am writing to express my concern about the recent discussion on marriage equality in Hawaii. The premise of the debate is that the same benefits that have been afforded married couples (Male & Female) should be also given to close friends regardless of gender. The question of benefits is not a moral or equal rights decision. It is not even about love. The federal and state allowances given to Married couples was one of recognition that they contribute to society in a way that even the closest of friends of the same gender could not. They were and still remains the source of the future work force. Even the benefits that are afforded to Married couples are reduced as their children leave home and enter the workforce. The benefit afforded married couples were because of the unique contribution of that relationship. Though passing this legislation does not prevent married couples from providing the same

contribution, it does devalues the uniqueness of that contribution. In times pass both Federal and State legislatures recognized as a benefit to society, this legislation undermines that benefit.

Can we afford the change? According to the American Community Survey there are about 60.3 million married couples in the USA. There are 120.6 Million people are receiving federal and state benefits based upon marital status alone. Changing the name of the relationship of friends can add at a minimum of 12.7 million individuals to that benefit list with no potential to provide the contribution to society that married couples have. In a cost benefit analysis this discussion adds to the cost without adding to the benefit.

As legislators are charged to make decisions that help resolve problems. This decision has the potential to create a situation that not only expresses a devaluation of marriage but increase the cost to the tax payer in program maintenance. Though there are moral grounds to object to this legislation, it is unlikely that the political climate will allow a judgment based upon morality. Everyone has the right to believe what they want. This is not just a moral issue it is an economic and social issue as well. Economically it will increase the cost to taxpayer over the long term or systematically reduce the benefit to married couples to compensate for increased demand without benefit. Socially the redefinition of marriage by legislation brings additional pressure to attempt to normalize the decision through the education system. In Hawaii keeping good teachers has always been a challenge simply by the ever changing curriculum and or approach to teaching. Now

teachers will be mandated to justify the decisions even if they are morally conflicted. The decision that you make for the people of Hawaii has long lasting implication. Do not force the people of Hawaii to compromise long standing values that make Hawaii a great place to live. Hawaii has many laws designed to maintain a natural balance due to the nature of Island living. What about the social ecosystem that exists? Should we care less about it? Is it not as important as the nene goose? Living among different types of people is not new to the people of Hawaii but to be forced to accept a state mandated value set is tyranny against the people that believed and voted in a legislature that was to be working to make things better. Now this- Our elected officials are forcing its moral code on the people. It is not right or equal.

Marriage is more than a piece of paper or contract. It is the economic and social foundation for Hawaii. Vote No, this is not an equal rights issue for the contributions that close friends make on society can never be equal to contribution that traditional marriages has and continue to make on society. It can't be equal if it is not equal. I await your response.

Sincerely,

Kevin T. Brown

From: Earl Arakaki
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: JDL Testimony to SB-1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:48:18 PM

Dear Chairman Senator Hee and Senate Committee Members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee,

Thank you for serving our community especially at this time when the "Same Sex Marriage bill" is coming up for vote of which I oppose.

This important legislation will affect all of us in ways not yet conceived. Please take the time to make an informed vote that will alter our current lifestyle and values which will affect our Island for generations to come. Please visit the www.massresistance.org website to inform yourself of what your sons, daughters or grandkids will be exposed to in school and in society. This website depicts the policies and public outcry in Massachusetts that approved same sex marriage in 2004. This bill is too important to our islands future to be passed without further discussion.

Aloha, Earl K. Arakaki
45-342 Kanaka Street
Kaneohe, Hi 96744capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Dakota Robinson
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:33:12 PM

October 24, 2013

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I stand in opposition to recognizing marriages between individuals of the same sex. My view stems from the traditional institution of marriage reserved for one man and one woman with the intent of procreating and raising a family based on the principle doctrines of the bible upon which the foundations of our nation were founded. I have several gay friends in whom I love, but I do not support same-sex marriages on the basis of religious freedom.

Thank you very much,
Dakota Robinson

68-495 Crozier Drive
Waialua, Hawaii
96791

From: Aaron Schade
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Opposition to the proposed bill
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:07:04 PM

Dear Senator Clayton Hee, Senators and elected representatives,

I absolutely oppose the bill and the special session that has been called which takes away the voice of the people. I have significant concerns that the same sex marriage bill threatens to replace and supersede religious freedoms. The language of the bill simply allows us to draw no other conclusion: this bill will change religious practices against the will and rights of those who are already enjoying those privileges. The consciences and beliefs of many will be rendered illegal and their conscientious convictions would then be regarded as discriminatory. The law would prohibit what and how individuals taught their children, and what they would have their children taught, and become oppressive and ironically unconstitutional in its application. It would also create a mess in state funding for individuals of Hawaiian descent, and who and what constitutes a Hawaiian. For the sake of freedoms afforded in this country, and within the framework under which such freedoms were drafted by the founding fathers, this simply cannot happen. The results down the road would be regrettable, and it is shameful that religious freedom has been given a price-tag, sold for the economic benefits of the state. As my elected representatives, I request you vote against any such bill that supports same sex marriages and which jeopardizes the religious freedoms this bill would simply replace. We can not remove those rights for your proposed bill, a bill that is simply baffling in its scope as to what you are willing to give up for it. This is not about depriving anyone of rights, or some falsely construed accusation of intolerance, or being behind the times; this is about maintaining and preserving the religious freedom and rights already in place, and which any such bill would seriously jeopardize to undo. Decisions can not be made at such an expense to freedom.

It is commendable that some concessions have been made in the proposed bill to protect religious freedom, but it is simply not enough. I am baffled at the tap dance around, and then over religious freedom that would result from this bill, and the unabashed manner in which economics has been used as a justification for trampling religious freedom. Words like "profit" have been dropped to somehow give the appearance that it will protect religious freedom in the proposed bill; however, the proposed language and its ambiguity continues to lack sufficient protections against church organizations and their holdings, and thus the bill must be rejected. The irony is that this initiative seeks to rob religious freedom in the name of "profits" for the state, sold to the highest bidder.

Religious freedom does not have a price-tag, and it is invaluable, and it can not, and must not be trampled upon. I continue to oppose redefining marriage, and this should not be done behind closed doors. If anything is to be redefined, it should happen by the voice of the people (which has already recently been done, and yet you continue to challenge it for your personal motivations, obviously at odds with what the law already defines). All of these issues proposed in the bill should be rejected. Religious freedom must prevail. It has been safeguarded and protected since the establishment of this country, and must continue to do so.

Sincerely,

A concerned citizen
Aaron Schade

From: pregilj@gmail.com on behalf of John Pregil
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: same sex legislative session
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:29:07 PM

John Pregil, Jr.

46-241 Lilipuna Rd.

247-7878

hfire04@hotmail.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear Commitee members,

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of our District. I truly

appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very

important issue. I urge you to vote “no” to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special

legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights,

to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church

community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to

provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender

marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not

protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that

could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end

important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to

Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional

marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as

others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as

was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment.

I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate

opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be

given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take

the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to

express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

John Pregil, Jr.

From: Haunani
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Opposition HB NO 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:50:01 PM

I am Haunani K. Jones, I represent my 5 keiki, my kane and ‘ohana from Waihe’e,‘Oahu. I am testifying in regards to SB NO 1 and let it be documented that I personally oppose this bill and any fraction thereof. I am taking this stance because the current wording/rights of this Bill would severely damage my church and many other churches-We would have to shut down. Please do not violate our rights, guaranteed by the first amendment, in the name of equality.

I come with an open heart and soul as I know this Bill would do more damage than good to the few of you who think this is the “right thing to do”. This should NOT be strictly up to you are legislators, senators and Governor, however, decided wholly by us the people and citizens of this state.

I believe that Marriage is between one man and one woman.

I am thankful for this opportunity to share my mana’o with you all in hearing my position, which again is opposition to bill SB NO 1.

Me ka ha’aha’a

Haunani K. Jones
47-469 G Waihe’e Place
Kane’ohe, HI 96744

1 808 382-9481

Aloha I’m Aaron Kaonohi I’m also a concerned father husband and Christian, as well as a Kanaka maoli. I’m testifying in regards to S.B. No.1 and let it be documented that I oppose this bill and any fraction thereof.
I take this stand to protect my moral rights and my constitutional rights as well. Marriage needs to be protected it is between a man and a women.
I appreciate the time you have spent in hearing my position, which again is opposition to bill S.B. NO. 1
Mahalo Aaron Kaonohi 47-357 mahakea rd Kaneohe Hi 96744

From: Connected2Faith@aol.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:05:30 PM

Cristina Gilkey
47-376 A Mahakea Road
Kaneohe, HI 96744
808-888-8404
Connected2Faith@aol.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear Mr. Clayton Hee, Committee Chairman

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of our District. I truly appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. As my District Senator, I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote “no” to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment.
I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,
Cristina Gilkey

From: Roberto Martinez
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: the HAWAII marriage equality act of 2013
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:09:46 PM

We as American's have a right to the full protection of the constitution of the United States of America as well as the right to have our most precious Constitution protected by those whom we have elected to political positions of power. The Hawaii Marriage act of 2013 I fear will deny a section of its citizens the right to practice our religious beliefs whether they be Christian or some other religion, as is protected in our constitution. We view marriage as a covenant between man and our creator as between a man and a woman, long ago established in our Christian Judeo scriptures. Be not deceived, It will force Pastors and Ministers to be outlaws in our land by a minority of individuals who have changed morality into civil rights for their own purposes. In their quest to force by political will all to accept their alternative life styles, since no true minister of God can marry two men or two women it is against everything we believe in. It will further destroy the fabric of our communities little by little in order to fill the pockets of business men who cannot see beyond the dollar bills in their bank accounts. It will further erode our Constitution which is already on a downward spiral.

I am against The Hawaii Marriage Act of 2013, let's put it to the ballot box for all our citizens.

A concerned Citizen
Roberto Martinez

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.

From: Sybil Schoenstein
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB-1 Oct. 28, 2013, 10:30am
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:18:38 PM

WRITTEN TESTIMONY REGARDING SB-1, HEARING ON OCTOBER 28, 2013

I summarize several communiqués that I have sent to all state legislators and Governor Neil Abercrombie.

Before legislation passed to allow civil union, I sent warnings to all of you that you are opening a Pandora's box and that you would be inviting the door to be opened for future issues that would eventually lead to same-sex marriage. Well here it is at our doorstep.

Terminology

It is the term "marriage" that is an important issue here. "Same-sex marriage" should not be labeled as such. Marriage and legal rights are two different issues. If couples of the same sex want to be treated as equal in the eyes of the law, then so be it, but it should remain separate from the state of marriage. Ancient Hawaiian culture as in other cultures have accepted this relationship. No laws need to be made to sanction it. A same-sex relationship is just that. Marriage is just that. They are apples and oranges.

Civil Union should suffice as the terminology. There should be no need to change it. If the present Civil Union bill does not address legal equality, then make it do so without having to label it as same-sex marriage. I'm sure that you can find a way to label the bill as civil union with the same rights as married couples.

Religion

Regarding the religious aspect of the proposed bill, there should not be a problem with that if the intent is legal equality. Paragraphs 572-F and 572-G should be looked at carefully. The language of the bill should reflect that religious organizations be allowed to make their own decisions in light of their beliefs. There should be no stipulations of the kind such as is stated in the bill at present. It is up to the religious entity to decide whether they wish to conduct any such ceremonies. If a same-sex couple wishes to bind their union with religious affiliation, it is up to them. I highly doubt they would want to do this in a place that does not fit their needs.

I still remain firm as an individual who strongly and deeply believes that marriage should remain between a man and a woman. Equality in this issue has to do with legal rights and should not make any stipulations on religious rights.

In paragraph 572C-2, which appears to have been eliminated, the first sentence "The legislature finds that the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage as a unique institution based upon the committed union of one man and one woman." should remain because it was voted on by the people and therefore should be respected.

If this following statement is true that "The legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couple", it leaves much open to interpretation by legislators. I do believe it was the intent of voters to preserve marriage between a man and a woman.

When civil union was presented to the voters, the wording was deceptive. I agree with those who believe that it was passed by voters, with the understanding that marriage would remain between a man and a woman. I for one voted with this understanding in mind.

I continue to impress on you the need to look at this bill very carefully before making your final decision. I'm sure you have had much feedback from others like myself asking you NOT to pass this bill at this time. If you are getting a lot of responses asking you not to pass this bill, it should indicate to you a real concern by many on both sides of the issue. That alone should set off a red light to be cautious.

DO NOT RUSH INTO THIS. TOO MUCH CONTROVERSY IS INVOLVED.
Take the time to truly listen to your constituents and think it through. If it be necessary to propose a bill, then word it properly.

May you be guided by good common sense!

Respectfully submitted,
Sybil Schoenstein

From: David Waite
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: S.b. No 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:35:02 PM

My name is David Stratton Waite; I am a member of the Laie, HI community. I am testifying in regards to S.B. NO. 1 and let it be documented that I personally oppose this bill. My reasons - the exceptions are not adequately stated. I would want clergy performing marriages the ability to accept or refuse based on the religious belief of the clergy. Additionally, those religions which own buildings to accept or refuse use of their buildings based on the beliefs of the religion. I appreciate the time you have spent in hearing my position, which again is opposition to bill S.B. NO. 1. Thank You

From:	Kathie Mundy
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	The Senate: Committee on Judiciary & Labor, Regarding SB1 on Oct. 28, 2013 @ 10:30 am - Written Testimony Only
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 2:38:12 PM

To the members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Regarding SB1:

I want to begin by thanking you for your dedication and desire to serve the people of Hawaii, trying to help protect our state and make it better for all of us. I know yours is not an easy task.

I am asking you to vote NO at the special session regarding the proposed Same Sex Marriage Bill (SB1). I am opposed to redefining the meaning of the word "marriage". That term was always meant to define marriage as a legal union between one man and one woman. Same sex marriage debases the family, which is the basis for society and has been from the beginning. Let the term "civil union" stand which defines, by its terminology, what it is.

If this bill is passed and becomes law, I am concerned about the effect on the culture, values, and the rich pro family pro life traditions of Hawaii. Is this really the legacy we want to hand down to our children and grandchildren?

Have each of you honestly researched and analyzed the effects on those states (like Massachusetts) and places (like Canada) that have already made same sex marriage legal? It has been shown that some of the LGBT leaders have specific plans to change school curriculum and to change laws about churches being able to follow their faith in choosing whether or not to perform marriages, etc. based on their belief systems. What about the freedoms of individuals and businesses who are not gay or lesbian to live out our beliefs, too?

I ask you to vote NO on SB1 until we, the people of Hawaii, can see what has happened in other places and decide if this is/will be in the BEST interests of the people of Hawaii. If you vote no on this issue, it will give time for greater debate and input from Hawaii's people. I believe that, regarding this issue, you will best serve the people by letting each one of us have a vote in determining the outcome that we are being asked to live by.

Righteousness cannot be legislated. It is a matter of belief based on the principles and beliefs that our country was founded on. Legalizing immorality and attempting to legalize immorality into the culture is in direct opposition to our state motto: "The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness". We need to embrace our state motto.

Thank you for reading my testimony and considering my opinion,

Kathryn E. Mundy
(registered voter, born and raised in Hawaii, residing on Maui)

From: Boyd Mossman
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB 1 Same Sex Marriage legislation
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:57:58 PM

SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
October 28, 2013
10:30am

Written Testimony of Hon. Boyd P. Mossman (Ret.) in opposition to SB 1.

I submit this written testimony in opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights or more accurately Same Sex Marriage.

In accordance with our state motto, marriage between a man and a woman is and has always been deemed "righteous." This statement about the continued life of our land is our guide to our future. Marriage between a man and a woman has defined the history of mankind as well as our state. From the indigenous to the immigrants, our ancestors labored and lived as families with mothers and fathers. Using equal rights to topple the foundations of the righteousness of our land with the cry of equal rights does not in and of itself provide equal rights. By removing rights currently enjoyed by the many religious organizations and their members and affiliates through unfair and biased legislation will make some more equal than others. Use of facilities by any who religious organizations deem they wish to allow use to is a right being taken away with this bill. Most may not recognize the jeopardy this bill will place our churches and families in without a more thorough review of the law.

I therefore respectfully recommend first that the legislature allow the people to decide again whether same gender marriage should be legalized in Hawaii and second that at least the rights and privileges currently allowed under our current laws to churches and their affiliates be preserved for our posterity.

Very truly,

Hon. Boyd P. Mossman (Ret.)
808 250-7654
boydpmossman@me.com

October 25, 13

Aloha Honorable Representative,

Growing up, I learned that as Americans, we have the protected right, privilege, and freedom of religion. I also learned that "all (men) are created equal". The Marriage Equality Act presents a problem: it cannot satisfy both. If it were to pass and ultimately become law, numerous religions' freedoms would be limited, and that wouldn't be good (a religion should not have to alter their beliefs to satisfy this bill, that seems almost unlawful to them). If the bill was tossed, those seeking equal rights related to marriage wouldn't receive the opportunities they are seeking.

I feel the only ways to make it just and fair for BOTH sides is to 1) revise bill to protect religious freedoms and 2) let the people vote on the issue.

I firmly believe that freedom of religion is a wonderful right in this great country. If a certain religious group were to change or alter their doctrines, beliefs, and/or

values, it is its right to do so, according to their own desires. The bill in its current state could very well FORCE change in religions themselves, not according to religions' desires. This immediately takes away religious freedom. If that were taken away, there may come even greater consequences not just to religions, but to all people in society.

Another thing I learned growing up is that every member of Congress is responsible for doing what the people (not just some, not just one Party, but ALL people) desire. It may be true that you, along with this bill, cannot satisfy everyone. If I was in your difficult shoes, I would let the people themselves decide; that only seems fair to ALL people.

It is my hope that as my representative you will: help to revise the bill to protect freedom of religion as well as equal rights, and help support the people voting on the issue (allowing another freedom to be seen in action), which is their right. Mahalo nui loa...

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Joshua and Makaiwi

Pearl City Resident

From: gusty
Subject: Oppose bill# SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:03:12 PM

I am writing to oppose the proposed Same-sex Marriage Bill. Marriage is defined by God as between a man and a woman. Even if God is left out of the discussion, the institution of marriage is a societal decision that should be decided by society. Whatever the motivation for hastily changing the definition of marriage, your highest priority should be to represent the people.

I plead with you to not erode the family, the most critical and beneficial structure for a child to be created and/or raised in. I request you read these three papers:

http://www.frc.org/get.cfm?i=IS04C02 (Family Research Council)
http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2004/03/marriage-still-the-safest-place-for-women-and-children
http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2010/09/marriage-america-s-greatest-weapon-against-child-poverty

Thank you!!
Samiuela Tolutau

From:	Stephen Crowell
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	equal rights
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 3:10:02 PM

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to all senators of Hawaii:

I WANT YOU TO VOTE AGAINST THE SB-1 aka The Marriage Equality Bill.

Many do not want this bill to pass. I do not want our government officials choosing. I want the people of Hawaii to vote on this. Many of your voters will remember your vote on this bill and your re-election on November 4, 2014 hangs in the balance. your future in the Senate is dependent on your choice!!!

From: Stephen Kaneshiro
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: NO on Marriage Equality
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:18:35 PM

Public Testimony for the Senate hearing:

Clayton Hee, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

From: Stephen Kaneshiro

Pastor of Valley Isle Fellowship, Wailuku, Maui, HI.

P.O. Box 886

Wailuku, HI. 96793

(808) 244-0865

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Please vote “NO” on the issue of “marriage equality.”

The first issue that concerns me is that “marriage equality” presumes that those with same-sex attractions should have civil rights to re-define marriage on the same basis that people with different skin colors should enjoy equal protection. This line of reasoning leads many to the erroneous belief that people are born with uncontrollable inclinations to same-sex attraction.

With much research being done over the last 30 years, there has been no evidence that there is a biological, chemical, genetic, or any other scientific rationale for “being born with that inclination.” If there is no scientific evidence for this assumption, then civil rights are being granted on the basis of one’s behavioral

choices.

I do not want to see this “Pandora’s Box” of choices opened up. I would not want to see the nudists have civil rights to go unclothed anywhere and among anyone they would want to. I would not want to see that behavior around children and youth. I would not want to see pornographers granted the civil right to openly practice their trade anywhere they would want to with anyone they would want to do it with.

As far as marriage is concerned, if same-sex attraction would be a protected “civil right,” then what about the “civil rights” of the polygamists or the polyamorists? What about an extreme view like the “civil rights” of pedophiles? Will these choices also be covered by “civil rights?” Since there is no scientific proof that “same-sex attracted” people are born that way, we have no choice but to claim that it is a choice. If you say that you believe that they were “born” that way, then you are saying that it is a matter of faith and faith in religion is integral. So this would make it a faith issue and when you begin to speak about a faith issue, then all religious faith has to be considered here as well.

Another issue that is of great concern to me is that there is an enormous effort to try to remove the Judeo-Christian faith from all consideration in the formulation of this law. Yet in the establishment of our Nation’s Constitution, our Judeo-Christian faith was foundational in it’s formulation. As our nation is trying to move more and more into an amoral civil government, the end result is turning into a sorry failure. The more we move away from our foundations in the Judeo-Christian faith, the more and more social evils and pains seem to grow exponentially.

In the 60’s the “free love” movement led to the legalization of abortion in the mid 70’s. Now over 40 years after the legalization of the slaughter of unborn children, we have experienced more than 55 million unborn children being sacrificed on the altar of godless convenience. In my opinion this is a big contributor to the devaluation of human life in our society that we currently experience. How can this be good for anyone?

Now we are about to see the destruction of the sanctity of marriage with what is being termed marriage equality. This is an issue of morality, and the “faith community,” except those who are agreeing with marriage equality, are being marginalized and demonized. You who are legislators do have the choice to determine who you will hear and who you will let influence you.

Since there is no unassailable scientific proof that one is “born” with same-sex attractions, a legislator who votes in favor of “marriage equality” is applying his or her faith in the unfounded belief that such attractions are inborn. You are acting with inequality by discounting those who have a contrary faith and in denying them the right to actively engage in this very important process.

To dismiss, marginalize, and demonize those who disagree with your presuppositions is to be very unequal. With that kind of inequality, how can you even begin to address the very important issue of “marriage equality?” The heavy-handed spirit that is evident on this issue in the Governor’s office and among many in the Hawaii State Legislature on this issue really stands as a disgrace to the issue of “marriage equality.”

I urge you to vote “NO” on this issue until you can conclusively prove that there is verifiable scientific evidence that one is born with same-sex attractions. By rushing this through and voting “yes” on this issue would open the “Pandora’s Box” to the civil rights of all kinds of so called desires that would end up destroying our great state and our great nation. In the spirit of “equality” vote “NO” until there is scientific proof to support your suppositions.

Respectfully,

Stephen Kaneshiro

Pastor of Valley Isle Fellowship

Email: vifoffice@hawaii.rr.com

Phone: (808) 244-0865

P.O. Box 886

Wailuku, HI. 96793

From:	Ron Ebert
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Same sex marriage
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 3:24:24 PM

I am totally against legalizing same sex marriage.

At the very least it should be put to a vote of the people! It might be legal to ram this into law without a vote of
the people but is it the right thing to do?

Ron Ebert
PO Box 429
Pahala, Hi. 96777

Chairpersons of the House & Senate:
Honorable Members of the Hawaii House & Senate:

RE: SB1 - Equal Rights

For Legislative Session Meeting on Monday OCT 28, 2013

This is a testimony to publicly express my opposition to SB1.

As a Mililani resident, a community leader, a business owner, and concerned citizen for the wonderful state of Hawaii here are my reasons for opposing this bill.

1) Hawaii Senators and House Representatives are elected as 'representatives' of the people of Hawaii. You are here to serve the people of Hawaii. You are not here to represent outside special interest groups. Your voice should be that of the voice of the Hawaii residents. Your constituents should be who you listen to, not anyone else. Period. Your were elected by your constituents, not anyone else. In addition, America is founded on the principle of the voice of the people, and especially of that by the majority. Majority rules. At this time, on this issue, if it is not clear what the people of Hawaii believe with regard to Marriage equality, then put it **on the ballot for all the people of Hawaii to decide.**

2) If this bill were about equal rights, then why are the rights of children not being discussed? Where are the equal rights for children who would say, "where is my mommy **and** my daddy?" This bill would deny children their right, and force them (truly force the, they would have no choice) to not have a choice. To be clear this would deny equal rights to young people (children/teens). To have a mom and dad has been a mainstay since the beginning of human civilization. So to be honest, this bill is not about 'equal rights' it is about adult people who are choosing to live the way they want, without any consideration of children. So in essence children don't have a right to a mom and dad. How sad.

3) In case this hasn't hit home, Let me as every single House and Senate Representative:

Did you grow up with a mother and father?
Think back on your childhood - what would it have been like if you had been forced to have two moms (no dad, ever) or two dads (no mom, ever)?
How would that have changed your childhood memories and experiences?

And now you are going to take that away for potential children here in Hawaii?

Again, this bill is not about equal rights. It is about adults whose will and rights are way more important that of a child or teenager. In this case, children and teens have no rights.

4) Hawaii is a popular and sought after family destination of peoples all over the globe. Many love Hawaii because it is so 'family oriented.' Allowing less than one percent of the population and outside interest groups to change family orientation here in Hawaii will devastate the tourism industry, and send a message to the world that we are no longer a family friendly place to visit. Outside interest groups will spend millions now promoting that Hawaii is or will become the gay vacation capital or paradise of the world.

Is that the kind of image that each of you believe that your constituents want their state to be viewed? Will this help our local economy? Will this help people who move here because of our family atmosphere? Or will they think twice about brining their family here to live and therefore spend their money and resources somewhere else?

5) We already have a civil unions bill to accommodate same - sex couples. Again, if you are uncertain about this, LET the people of Hawaii decide on the ballot. Our freedom is based upon a government that was founded 'of the people, by the people, for the people.' NOT a government of the 'few' people. **Let the Majority decide.**

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

David Ameen Jr.
Mililani, Hawaii
808-971-1360

From: Lionel Goo
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Same sex-vote no
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:10:40 PM

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
INTERIM OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A G E N D A

The Committee will meet to hear the following bill after its introduction and referral at the convening of the Second
Special Session of 2013 on Monday, October 28, 2013:

SB 1
Status & Testimony
RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
Recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex.
Extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits,
protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex
couples receive.
Pending
Introduction and
Referral to JDL

One of the worst memories of my life was when I was a piano student. While playing the piano, my piano teacher used to stick his elbow in my groin. I thought I was being punished for not practicing enough. The very last piano lesson I ever had was when

he actually unzipped me and started fondling my penis. I never played piano again.

Please do not pass the same sex marriage bill.

Sincerely,

Ronald Lee (pseudonym)

From: Kevin Hanna
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Special Session on Same Sex marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:56:19 PM

Though the Special Session now seems imminent, please remove from the agenda or or vote down the Same Sex marriage (SSM) bill proposed by the Governor's office.

The calling of a Special Session was never intended as a vehicle to change social behavior and make social public policy, it is a mechanism to handle legitimate emergencies which "REQUIRE" a timely response.

The SSM initiative in no way fits this intent.

The Special Session does not allow for adequate public input and/or the amending the proposed legislation. While I recognize that there are two days scheduled out of the 5 or 6 days of deliberation, this is not sufficient to hear the testimony of most of the people of these islands. To my knowledge, both of these hearings are in Oahu and none that I now of here in Hilo where or any of the other islands.

This is not the sort of issue that should be rushed into, just so that a very few may benefit for the tax implications which are sited as one of the main reasons to push this though quickly.

What is the MOST important result of this battle is not the passage or failure of any one legislative item, it is the adherence to the the democratic process.

If the public is not engaged in the processes on such an important issue, then indeed Democracy have taken a severe blow.

Please do not subvert the democratic process by forcing the issue in special session.

Please remove the Same Sex Marriage bill from the agenda of this session and allow the people of Hawaii to be stake holders in both this issue and the process of government.

I have voted in every election since I became of age, and that will not change in the future. However, who I elect or re-elect to represent will very much depend on the outcome of the next few days.

Sincerely,
Kevin Hanna

From: Noe Nagamine
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Senate Bill 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:12:57 PM

Honorable Senator Hee, Chairman

"Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 1."

I am against same sex marriage and believe that marriage is a sacred covenant between a man and a women and the Lord. Same sex partnerships can exists if they so choose outside of marriage as everyone has their agency, but marriage is a legal and binding act between a man and women and should remain as such.

I am for traditional marriage and strongly believe that it remains that way.

Sincerely,

Sandy Nagamine
1511 Nuuanu Avenue #205
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

From:	Kamuela Kimokeo
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 4:22:54 PM

Aloha,

My Name is Kamuela Kimokeo and I am a Hawaii resident in currently living in Ewa Beach. I am writing to oppose the bill as it is currently written for the following reasons:
1. A special session is not the best and most democratic way to go about addressing such a sensitive and complex issue. 2. I love and respect all people, but my religious and parental freedoms and rights are not being protected in the current law, I feel my rights are being disregarded 4. As a teacher and parent, I worry about how it will impact the curriculum in the schools, teaching things to my children to be right and true, that go against my beliefs 5. As a musician I feel I should have the right to deny performing at a same-sex marriage being that it goes against my religion.

The crux of the issue is whether the law protects a personal and institutional right to disagree with [proponents of same-sex marriage].

My understanding is that Hawaii's proposed law does not provide enough protection to individuals or to institutions who -- for moral reasons -- disagree with your position on same-sex marriage and wish to opt out. If such protections have since been added, then obviously that changes things.

I personally don't care whether same-sex couples want to claim a right to marry each other. What I care about is when same-sex couples (and government agencies) claim the right to silence those who believe that homosexual marriage immoral and against the precepts of God.

Yes, a few other states have already passed laws to allow same-sex marriage. In more cases, same-sex marriage has been forced on states through the courts. Regardless, there hasn't been much protection given to those who disagree with same-sex marriage on moral bounds. In several states, people, companies and institutions who have exercised their constitutional right to free expression and free association have been sanctioned (fined or otherwise punished) by the states or the courts for refusing to provide services to same-sex couples. We've seen bakers, photographers and even venue owners punished by the courts for opting out of same-sex weddings. The Hawaii law, as I understand it, does not provide adequate protection to keep this from happening in Hawaii.

Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, "It may be true that morality cannot be legislated, but behavior can be regulated. It may be true that the law cannot make a man love me, religion and education will have to do that. But it can keep him from lynching me and I think that is very important, also." By attempting to regulate behavior by legislating same-sex marriage into existence, and putting the force of government behind those regulations without any protections for those who believe the construct to be immoral and destructive, the State of Hawaii infringes on the rights of some people to provide a brand new right -- cut out of whole cloth -- to others.

So what about a baker, a photographer, a wedding band, a venue, or any other business or organization that wishes to exercise a moral objection to same-sex marriage by not participating in same-sex weddings or by not providing services to same-sex couples? Will the State force those businesses to provide the service against the will of the business owner? How long until religious organizations are singled out and prosecuted for "hate speech" for speaking out against same-sex marriage? How long until a same-sex couple sues a church for refusing to allow a same-sex couple to marry within their church building?

By legislating same-sex marriage as "moral," without adequate protections for those who believe it not to be so, the State of Hawaii is making a gravely immoral (and probably unconstitutional) step. For this reason I ask you to vote "NO" to the current bill.

Mahalo For your Consideration
Kamuela Kimokeo
91-1066 Polea St.
Ewa Beach HI. 96706

From:	Becky DeMartini
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	I oppose the bill titled, S.B. NO. 1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 4:26:12 PM

October 25, 2013

Aloha, my name is Becky DeMartini, speaking to represent my family and as a member of the Hau'ula community. I am testifying in regards to S.B. NO. 1 and let it be documented that I personally oppose this bill and any fraction thereof.

I up-hold that marriage is between a man and a woman only, and that society benefits from this remaining solid.

I appreciate the time you have spent in hearing my position, which again is opposition to bill S.B. NO. 1.

Thank you,

Becky DeMartini
54-363 Kamehameha Hwy.
Hauula, HI 96717

From: aolani_esene
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Opposition to SB NO 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:46:40 PM

Aloha mai kakou,

I am Trina A.L. Esene, and I represent my 4-year-old son, my husband of 9 years (who hails from Samoa), and my 'ohana from Wahi'awa, O'ahu. I am testifying regarding SB NO 1. I oppose this bill and any fraction thereof. I oppose any attempt to redefine "marriage." We, the people, will ultimately be affected by this vote in our homes, our schools, our workplaces, our assemblies, etc. Please allow us to vote on this heated issue that affects the entire population of Hawai'i.

Here's why SB NO 1 is important to me. As one who follows (or tries to follow) Christ, I continue to show aloha and respect for my family, friends, and acquaintances who are homosexual. I understand their lifestyle is their choice. However, altering the definition of "marriage" equates to choosing to defy our Holy Father God, who created you and I and who graces us with each breath we take. To possibly have to live under our state's defiance of our Akua...is difficult to swallow.

God is God, we are not. He is beyond our comprehension, His ways and plans are higher that we can conceive. God's divine design for marriage is between man and woman. How else were you and I created? It took a man and a woman. God created all things for His good purpose. And because our Akua does not force us to follow Him, He gifted us with the ability to choose whether we'll align to His purposes. Will I choose love and obey the Creator of this universe? Or will I forsake Him and any blessings that result from obedience and reverence to our Good God? Please do not lose awe and reverence for our Lord. Please do what is right.

Humbly requesting again that you allow the citizens of Hawai'i to vote on this issue vs. you all decide during a special session. Redefining "marriage" cannot be taken lightly. True, you have received numerous testimony from supporters and opposers of this bill, and you may have made your decision. However, if this is a true democracy, you will allow the people to make their voice known by casting their votes.

Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony. Praying you continue to be encouraged during this process.

Humbly,

Trina A.L. Esene | 2139 Pu'u Place, Wahi'awa, HI

Me ke aloha a Iesu (with the love of Jesus)...ao esene
I will give thanks for your unfailing love and faithfulness, because your promises are backed by all the honor of your name. (Psalms 138:2)
We must be able to speak God's heart, not just His principles. - John Bevere

From: Kainoa Fukumoto
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony OPPOSING Same-Sex Marriage Legislation
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 4:48:08 PM

To the Senate Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am sure you are well aware of the conversations and arguments for and against the proposed legislation to legalize same-sex marriage. I write to you today to express that I am opposed to such legislation and urge you, along with your fellow senators, to allow the people of Hawaii to make that decision for ourselves by a constitutional amendment. I am a Catholic, and although there are provisions respecting religious institutions, unfortunately, that protection is only afforded to the institution itself. It does not protect someone like me, a member of the Church, but also an everyday citizen of Hawaii whose business and family would be deeply affected by a law that violates our faith. My Catholic faith is not only practiced within the confines of the church walls. I am a Catholic every moment of every minute of every day of my life. As a musician, I am susceptible to being sued should I refuse to participate in providing music at the wedding of a same-sex couple. How is this just and equal? I highly doubt that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the father of the Civil Rights Movement, could accept this issue as one of civil liberties when our own religious liberties are being tramped upon.

I feel that I, along with countless fellow citizens of Hawaii, are being coerced into accepting a law that is simply unacceptable. I feel our voices, the voices of a majority striving to preserve marriage as an unchangeable institution between one man and one woman, are being trumped by politicians unwilling to let the actual voice of the people be heard. A law that has such a profound cultural impact on our society should be left up to the citizens of that society to determine. I pray that you and all our legislators will come to an agreement that a topic that has for so many years been a huge subject of debate should be so important that the people of Hawaii have the privilege of determining its result for themselves. So I urge you, let the people vote on this issue.

I make this testimony on behalf of myself, my wife and 2 1/2-year-old daughter, the ministries I direct and coordinate, and in the love and mercy of God.

Aloha,
Kainoa Fukumoto
220 Clark St.
Wahiawa, HI 96786
(808) 391-8732

From:	ShelbyK.Fernandez
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Same Sex Marriage Legistative Session - October 28, 2013
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 4:51:40 PM

Please stop this special legislative session scheduled for Monday, October 28, 2013.

Please allow the people of Hawaii to VOTE if they want to enact a same sex marriage bill which would redefine marriage and as such will contribute to the deterioration of the traditional family which will lead to the eventual downfall of our society and a domino effect of laws that will need to be upheld for those who don't agree.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shelby K. Fernandez
Waikoloa, Hawaii

October 25, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Aloha Chair Hee and Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor members,

I am writing to ask for your serious consideration on the proposed legislation that would redefine the relationship and nature of marriage in Hawaii. As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, this is an important issue to me.

I strongly oppose SB1, Relating to Equal Rights, the Act known as Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, and ask for your support.

President Gordon B. Hinckley stated, "The first commandment that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife. We declare that God's commandment for His children to multiply and replenish the earth remains in force. We further declare that God has commanded that the sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between man and woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife. The family is ordained of God. Marriage between man and woman is essential to His eternal plan."

Please also carefully consider to include in any legislation relating to Equal Rights a strong exemption for people and organizations of faith. The exemption should:

- Protect religious organizations and officials from being required to support or perform same-sex marriage or from having to host same-sex marriages or celebrations in their facilities; and
- Protect individuals and small businesses from being required to assist in promoting or celebrating same-sex marriages.

The Church's opposition to same-sex marriage neither constitutes nor condones any kind of hostility toward gays and lesbians. Even more, the Church does not object to rights for same-sex couples regarding hospitalization and medical care, fair housing and employment rights, or probate rights, so long as these do not infringe on the integrity of the traditional family or the constitutional rights of churches.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in OPPOSITION of SB1.

Sandra Mactagone
2671 Anuu Place, Apt. O
Honolulu, HI 96819

Yumi Seavey
825 Second Street
Pearl City, HI 96782

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it denies individual citizens and business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
It also fails to protect churches, religious groups, temples, not to mention church-affiliated organizations from lawsuits.

I believe in the freedom of expression and equal rights. Our religious freedoms will be taken away with this bill, and this is unconstitutional.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Yumi Seavey

Hawaii Voter

Written Testimony opposing SB1_ Relating to Equal Rights

My name is Jeff Darrow and I live in Pepeekeo. I am do not support same sex marriage. I voted in 1998 to amend the state constitution to define marriage between a man and a woman. I do not support same sex marriage and am very frustrated that this issue is being pushed upon us instead of bringing this matter to the people of Hawaii for a vote. The vote in 1998 was brought to the people because it is a very personal and important matter to each person in Hawaii. It should not be left to a small group of representatives to make this decision for the people of Hawaii.

I am very frustrated to see the interpretation of our vote in 1998. It was to define marriage between a man and a woman. It did not give the authority to the Legislature to completely deceive the people of Hawaii allow same sex marriage. THIS IS DECEPTION. Do not proceed with this bill. Bring it back to the people of Hawaii to settle this matter once again. If the people of Hawaii want same sex marriage, so be it. But if they vote to keep marriage between a man and a woman, do not proceed on your God given authority to override the people and deceive.

I am counting on you to make the right decision in this matter and support that this issue be brought before the people. I rarely get involved in political matters but this is very important to me and to my family as well as to my children and their families.

Jeff Darrow
P.O. Box 231
Pepeekeo, HI 96783
808-937-6034

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
RE: SB 1 – RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
HEARING DATE & TIME: Monday, October 28, 2013 / 10:30am
TESTIMONY: WRITTEN ONLY

Dear Hawaii State Senators and Representatives,

Thank you so much for reading my testimony. With the upcoming special session nearing (or already here), I wanted to inform you of concerns I have with the marriage equity bill as proposed by the Governor.

The First Amendment of The Constitution of the United States of America reads:
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof…

I believe that this bill (SB1) infringes upon, *"…the free exercise thereof…"*

He says that the bill protects religious organizations from performing same sex marriages, but with exceptions. I submit that protection with exceptions is not really protection at all. It is like a home security system that protects your whole house except the back door. On pg7, line 8, 9, 10 it states that a religious organization shall not be required to make a religious facility owned or leased by the religious organization available for solemnization of a particular marriage; provided that; "...for solemnization of marriages pursuant to this chapter, the religious organization restricts use of the religious facility to its members..."

With all due respect, no church restricts their building use to members only. The mission of the church is to reach out beyond its members, beyond its four walls, and to extend love, mercy, and grace. Therefore under that exemption, I believe all churches would be susceptible to lawsuits.

Even if this and other exemptions are removed from the bill, there are other effects which this bill does not address but in fact creates. What if a religious business owner is approached by an LGBT couple requesting services (photography, baker, etc.)? Here is an article from the Huffington Post regarding issues that are already arising in other states because of the conflict between Religious Freedom vs Gay Rights
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/08/discrimination-lawsuits-gay-rights_n_3882450.html

I understand that we do not live in a Christian country. Values that certain Christians may have might not be held throughout the country, state, or city. I completely understand that. But what this bill will do, as it is written, will infringe upon the civil rights of private citizens who hold certain religious values (which we are allowed to have under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States) exchanging or lessening them for the civil rights of those who have LGBT values. If this bill is ultimately about civil rights and equality, it does not make sense that one group would gains rights while another loses theirs.

I would like to humbly request that the decision on same sex marriage not be rushed through during this special session, but be given more thought to the potential effects that this legislation will have on the *civil rights of private citizens, business owners, and others who have certain religious convictions.*

If legislation should pass (and it may) allowing for same sex marriage (granting civil rights), then I believe it is of equal importance and the duty of our representatives and senators to protect the existing civil rights of those who may disagree due to religious beliefs. I believe a good Marriage Equity Bill would honor the love and relationship that LGBT couples have for one another and also respect the values of citizens who may not agree due to religious convictions. That is a difficult bill to write, but that is the job and responsibility you accepted when you took office.

Thank you again for taking the time to read my testimony and thank you for your service. This is a very sensitive issue that I think we all would like to come to a resolution that honors and respects all parties involved. I hope that you would consider voting "no" this special session and work towards a bill that acknowledges the importance of both love and faith.

Respectfully,
Jared Miyamoto

From:	Victoria Cannon
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	SB 1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 6:19:22 PM

We oppose SB1. This has nothing to do with 'equal rights'. No to any legislation re same sex marriages.

Trudy Cannon
Victoria Cannon

From: Muriel Mililani Hughes
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1 Testimony
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:34:02 AM

To the members of the Hawaii State Legislature
I am opposed to SB1: the Same Gender Marriage Bill. Marriage by definition is the moral, physical, and social union of a man and a woman. If two people of the same gender would like to form a union, then it should be called something else other than a marriage. If individuals desiring equality under the law, provide for the same legal rights but do not call the arrangement a marriage.

In light of how the local community has been suffering due to the federal shutdown, I am appalled by the decision to schedule a Special Session on taxpayers' money to determine this issue. In a small community such as Volcano, the closing of the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park had far outreaching effect beyond the impact on federal workers...consider the people who had bed and breakfast units, restaurants, stores, service businesses. A travesty on the small people.

Muriel Mililani Hughes
P O Box 647
Volcano, HI 96785

--
Muriel Mililani Hughes
Hele pu no me ka lima
Be willing to help others when going traveling and not make a burden of yourself.
Puku'i 759

Submitted Testimony

Date: 25 October, 2013

To: Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Measure: SB 1 – Relating to equal rights

Hearing: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30am

From: Rebecca Wolfersberger

I OPPOSE SB 1 Hawaii Marriage Equality Act for the following reasons:

1. This debate seems to be focusing on the rights of consenting adults; but the rights of children are being ignored. Children have a right to be raised by their biological parents whose commitment to each other is attested to by the covenant of marriage. While recognising that this is an ideal, and that in practice mothers and fathers can be separated by death, by divorce or by lack of commitment, the fact remains that research supports the finding that children raised by both their biological parents who remain committed to each other do better on all measures of well-being. There will always be notable exceptions, <u>but we should not be deconstructing the ideal of an institution which appears to be contributing to the general well-being of children.</u>
2. Parents need to establish their relationship as a role model for their children. If the definition of marriage is altered to include same gender couples it sends mixed messages to children and contributes to gender confusion. The following is excerpted from an article entitled *Caring for Your School Age Child: Ages 5-12(Copyright* © 2004 American Academy of Pediatrics updated 30/12/2011.

   "The gender-role behavior of children seems to be strongly influenced by their identification with the males and females in their lives. All children pick up characteristics from the men and women around them, incorporating these traits into their own personalities and value systems. They are also influenced by TV and sports heroes and adults in all other activities in their lives. Over time, the combined effect of these many influences may determine many of their masculine and feminine qualities. Perhaps more than any other factor, the subtleties of every child's relationship with his or her father and mother—and the attitudes of the parents toward each other and toward the child—will influence his or her gender-related behaviors."
   (Retrieved 15 October, 2012 from http://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/gradeschool/pages/Gender-Identity-and-Gender-Confusion-In-Children.aspx)
3. The media has done a speedy job of changing public opinion on this issue in recent years. Marriage was once a sacred instution that was a clear pillar of society. To so quickly change to a new standard without examining the lasting effects it might have on society, and children in particular, is rash. Marriage as

an institution should not be altered on the whim of the media when society as a whole is affected. We look to our politicians to show moral leadership in society, rather than lead the downward charge.

4. The Judeo-Christian tradition sees marriage as being ordained of God between a man and a woman. It also calls on men and women to be chaste before marriage and faithful in marriage. It calls on parents take responsibility for the raising of their children in love and kindness. In its ideal form it is an institution worth defending and deserving of our support. If strong families are the building blocks of a strong country, and a strong society, then nothing will endanger our future more than the undermining of the family proposed in this Hawaii Marriage Equaliy Act.
5. The United States of America was built on Christian values that are inherent in the Judeo-Christian ethic and even though today it has become a much more secular society, and many of the Christian values have been eroded in the face of an evolving permissiveness, the influence of these values still permeates our culture. The erosion of these values and their positive moderation of human behaviour start with the idea, "I don't agree with this, but we live in a democratic country and I respect your right to think differently from the way I do." Having given way once, we become seduced by the logic of this argument and move to a tolerance which normalises practices which were previously regarded as not normal. Soon we embrace them wholeheartedly and their widespread acceptance means that those who try to remain faithful to the original premise are vilified and treated with less respect than those who lead the downward slide.

   This process can be seen in a range of issues:
   (i) The abandonment of the sanctity of Sunday as the Sabbath day
   (ii) The abandonment of the notion of chastity before marriage and fidelity in marriage
   (iii) The notion of no-fault divorce
   (iv) Increasing violence and promiscuity of lifestyles promoted in the media
   (v) Lowering of the drinking age and proliferation of liquor outlets (including supermarkets)
   (vi) The decriminalisation of prostitution
   (vii) Increasing dishonesty in business, politics and indeed in all aspects of life
   (viii) The tolerance of sexually explicit material in movies and TV (and on the internet)

   The results of this can be seen in:
   (i) The lack of spiritual reflection and refreshing which can accompany a day set aside for that purpose
   (ii) Increasing numbers of children born out of wedlock and raised in single parent homes
   (iii) Increasing incidence of intergenerational welfare dependency related to the above
   (iv) Increasing incidence of violence to children by partners of solo mothers (and failure of solo mothers to protect their children)
   (v) Increasing incidence of divorce with its concomitant negative impact on the lives of children

(vi) Increasing incidence of promiscuity and incidence of sexually transmitted diseases
(vii) Increasing incidence of violent crime
(viii) Increasing participation by disenfranchised and disaffected youth (product of dysfunctional families) in gangs with the accompanying rise in gang related crime
(ix) Increasing incidence of binge drinking and alcoholism (and drug use) among young people squandering the potential of their future life opportunities
(x) Increasing incidence of theft as a servant, fraud, embezzlement, misrepresentation, political dishonesty
(xi) Increasing incidence of pornography addicition among (particularly) males of all ages. It is interesting that we are permissive with regards to adult pornography but not to child pornography. As with any addiction, one thing leads to another. If we wish to reduce and even eliminate child pornography, we should be as strict on adult pornography.

A stand in favour of protecting the institution of marriage and against the amending of the definition of marriage to allow same sex marriage unfortunately inevitably attracts the ire of the proponents of this legislation. The Judeo-Christian ethic teaches us to strive to live peaceably with one another. I have no desire to denigrate those with same-gender attraction. In summary, I do, however, desire to reject this act because:

Summary:

1. It fails to take account of the rights of children to be part of a family environment which will give them the best chance of success in life.
2. In confuses the clarity of appropriate gender models for children.
3. The media has overinfluenced society into beliefs about same-sex marriage without considering the effects on society as a whole. Politicians need to show moral leadership and consider the potential for long-term negative downstream consequences that could flow from this redefinition.
4. Marriage is an institution worth protecting for the strong value it has on creating strong families, the building-block of our society.
5. Traditional values have positive worth in maintaining much that is good in society.

From: Sean
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Bill #SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:25:38 AM

Aloha

I am writing in response to my opposition to same-sex marriage. I believe that God has ordained marriage to be between a man and a woman. I hope that

Testimony for in Opposition to SB1

I am writing to ask you to please vote "NO" on attempts to redefine marriage in the State of Hawaii and oppose all efforts to implement same sex marriage. I am trusting that you will hear and heed the voice of a constituent, a lifelong resident of Hawaii.

Biblically, marriage was established for a man and a woman as a precursor to procreation and the promulgation of generations. However, if you are not a believer, this is indisputable even scientifically. Procreation can only occur between man and woman. There is no question. There is nothing to debate. There is nothing to re-define.

Proponents characterize those who oppose same-sex marriage as being discriminatory. I would have to agree. With respect to a moral principle as marriage being between a man and woman, there is a definite right or wrong. Fairness and equality have no bearing when it comes to what is moral or ethical. That said, nothing about same-sex marriage is morally or ethically correct. Same-sex marriage and all its implications go against Biblical and scientific truths and truths don't evolve.

Please stand for truth and vote "NO".

Sincerely,
Lynette Araki

My name is Daniel Tomita and my wife and I are registered voters and residents of Hilo. We have lived here in Hawaii on Oahu and the Big Island since 1984. I was born and raised on Maui, and have resided in Hawaii for almost sixty years. We are concerned citizens and are asking you to vote "NO" on SB1 or more commonly called the Same Sex Marriage Bill. Please consider the following reasons we are asking for your kokua:

First, a five or six day special session is not enough time to discuss this very controversial issue. The democratic process is circumvented because no amendments can be made. No public hearings are scheduled whereas a minimum of at least two would be scheduled in a regular session. Testimonies accepted will not be given their full voice because of the limitations of time. At best, only a few minutes would be granted to those wishing to speak for or against the bill. Public input would be minimized in this special session. Because of the time constraints, your role as a legislator is nominalized to address fully the concerns brought forward and to make the necessary amendments to craft a good bill. The governor's bill is inadequate, poorly crafted and does not adequately safeguard churches. Please vote NO!

Second, does it not seem odd that Hawaii is the only state to rush into special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision referred to in the bill? Our governor would lead you to believe that we are in violation of the Supreme Court decision. If so, why haven't the other 34 states that do not permit same-sex marriages also called for a special session? Ask yourself: Why is our governor pushing this through? Why the big rush? Why can't this wait for the regular session in January? Why spend valuable legislative time and money for something that should be more carefully weighed? This should be a red flag that the special interests that advocate the passing of this bill have ulterior motives that would impact Hawaii negatively. Please vote NO!

In 1998, the people decided this issue at the polls. Why can't we let the people decide again? This issue is now in the hands of the Legislature and not our Governor to declare that marriage is between a man and a woman.

The vast majority of our current population of over 1.3 million people were birthed by parents comprised of one man and one woman, NOT two men or two women. Our governor wants you to believe that this issue is about the violation of civil rights. Marriage is NOT a civil right, and no court including the Supreme Court has ever said that it is. Please do not be deceived by our governor and a very vocal minority attempting to push their agenda on us. Currently, only 916 civil union couples(a total of 1,832 people) have registered in Hawaii. Compare this to the 1.392 million people residing in Hawaii and it is clear that only a very small segment of our population is being served by this legislation. Please vote NO!

Finally, the governor's bill will NOT protect church facilities and their leaders, contrary to what he wants you to believe. The so-called religious exemption language is rendered invalid because of the public accomodations section. I am presently the senior pastor of the Kinoole Baptist Church. My wife and I came in 1995 to begin shepherding our congregation and this January marks 19 years that we have resided here in Hilo. Our church have been serving the Hilo community since 1946, almost sixty-seven years. We have 90 worshippers every Sunday and also permit a Russian congregation of 60 worshippers to meet every Sunday afternoons. We offer an afterschool program with a current enrollment of sixty children meeting Mondays through Fridays and on many holidays and school waiver days offer all-day care. We also allow a weight-loss Diets Anonymous group to meet every Tuesday evening. The governor would lead you to believe that the religious exemption clause adequately provides our church protection. In reality it does not! Because we service the public, we would be considered by definition a public accommodation and would be legally obligated to sanction a same-sex marriage. This would violate our religious beliefs and severely impair our ability to continue serving the Hilo community. Please vote NO!

Previously, we have pastored churches on Oahu and in Kona here on the Big Island and are deeply concerned about this bill becoming law. Mahalo for your desire to do the right thing as our State Motto

mandates: "The Life of the Land Is Perpetuated In Righteousness" May God give you the wisdom and strength to stand with us, do the right thing and vote NO!

Sincerely, Daniel Tomita, resident and registered voter in Hilo, Hawaii since 1996 and senior pastor of the Kinoole Baptist Church

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Keilani Briones and have grown up in Hawaii. I am testifying regarding the Marriage Equity Act to recognized marriage between individuals of the same sex. I am testifying against this measure.

I believe marriage is a between a man and a woman and is a deeply religious issue. I also believe that America's 1st Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, belief and choices. I have a strong conviction that marriage between a man and a woman is essential to the well-being of children. It is engrained in our very nature for children to need the positive influence of a father and mother. Thus, maintaining the traditional definition of marriage is important to the fabric of family and our society.

I also believe that the current draft of this bill is completely inadequate to safeguard my constitutional guaranteed religious freedoms. I believe the exemption language is too narrow to protect religious freedom for individuals, small business and religious organizations in our state.

I urge this body to vote no on this bill and to give the people the right to individually vote on an issue that will so closely affect our communities and the society in which we live and raise our family.

Thank you,
Keilani Briones
808-489-0057

From: Benjamin Candari
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: S.B. NO. 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:48:42 AM

I am Sherry Elaine Candari. I represent my family.

I am testifying in regards to S.B. NO. 1

I personally oppose this bill, and all parts thereof.

I oppose it first because of my religious beliefs that clearly teach that marriage is between a man and a woman, and is essential for a healthy society. I also oppose this bill because it infringes upon my rights as a U.S. citizen to freedom of religion.

Thank you for your time,

Sherry Candari
47-240 Kamakoi Rd.
Kaneohe, HI 96744

From:	Leilani Spencer
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	*****SPAM***** Same-Gender Marriage
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 10:18:25 AM

Rochele Spencer
45-876 Luana Place
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
808-699-3636
Leis4girls@yahoo.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear Commitee,

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of our District. I

appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. As my committee representative, I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote “no” to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need. I personally do not want to see my church be a victim of this and continue to service me and others.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment.
I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be
given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one

will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Blessings be with you,
Leilani

From: hanaigirl@aol.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Oct 28, 2013 Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage, please vote no
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:15:50 AM

Ms. Erin Castillo
46-318 Haiku Rd.
Kaneohe, Hi 96744
808.277.2967

Dear Committee Members,

My heart is burdened with this important issue that is before the legislature. I believe it is unfortunate it had to come

before the legislature as a "special session issue".

I am hoping this issue will be voted down as NO.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights,
to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church
community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to
provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender
marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not
protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that
could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end
important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to
Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as
others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as
was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment.
I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be
given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow

lawmakers to take
the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to
express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Very respectfully,

Ms. Erin Iwalani Castillo

From: cynthia Jean Arakaki
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:16:36 AM

Aloha, Chairman Senator Hee and Senate Committee members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee,

My name is Cynthia Jean Arakaki, a 60 year old registered voter. Thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony opposing this legislation.

I believe that same-sex marriage issue should not be passed in a special session because a five day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time. Everyone in Hawaii should be given the opportunity to be educated on the full impact of what would happen if this bill is passed. We need to be informed as to what doors have been opened in the states where same-sex marriage is a law, i.e. Massachusetts and that it will happen in Hawaii. I am especially concerned about teaching that sex between the same gender is normal and healthy to all our keikis and not given an opportunity as a parent or a grandparent to oppose this type of teaching.

May I urge you to vote NO to the passage of this legislation. Mahalo.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cynthia Jean Arakaki
45-342 Kanaka Street
Kaneohe, Hi 96744

From: mjkfaux@aol.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Special Session on Same Sex Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:39:26 AM

Monica Medina
92-650 Aoloko St., Kapolei, HI 96707
(808)672-4584
Mjkfaux@aol.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear Committee Member:

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of Hawaii. I

appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. As my
Representative, I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very
important issue. I urge you to vote “no” to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special
legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights,
to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church
community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to
provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender
marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not
protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that
could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end
important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as
others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as
was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment.
I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an

adequate
opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be
given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take
the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to
express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

Monica Medina

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strongly oppose of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strongly oppose of SB 1.

Marriage is a God ordained ceremony between a man and a woman. Government should not define the meaning of marriage, nor tell churches how or to whom the church should perform such a sacred ceremony.

I have nothing again guy nor lesbians. It is their right to decide how they want to live their lives; however, they cannot take away my right and affect my belief because they want to exercise their right and their belief.

We the people in Hawaii already voted that the definition of marriage is between a man and a woman. There should not be a further bill for the government to re-define the meaning of marriage.

I strongly believe that marriage is a God ordained ordinance between a man and a woman. Government should not re-define the meaning of marriage because the people of Hawaii already voted on this issue. It is unconstitutional to pass this bill and is hurtful to the families here in Hawaii. Please stop this bill to protect the families in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
25 October 2013

Aloha:

As a 30+ year resident of Hawaii and community influencer, I am deeply concerned about the unintended outcomes that have historically followed such legislation in other states. I am sure that those who have proposed this legislation have done so with the best of intentions, but in an attempt to provide a remedy for a minuscule percentage of people in Hawaii they are potentially imposing massive burdens upon the overwhelming majority of us.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 1 for the following reasons:

(1) Any legal and/or financial inequities remaining since the passing of the Civil Unions bill can easily be addressed by amendments to that law WITHOUT redefining marriage.

(2) This is a divisive issue that should be decided by a plebiscite, not by political maneuvering.

(3) In attempting to provide some measure of protection for religious groups who have moral and theological objections to same-gender marriage the State of Hawaii is overstepping its Constitutional authority — the alleged protections for churches state that. "**unless a religious organization allows use of its facilities or grounds by the general public for weddings for a profit, such organization shall not be required to make its facilities or grounds available for solemnization of any marriage celebration**." That wording puts the State in the untenable position of defining who/what constitutes a church, and is based upon endorsement of a single understanding of church that does not reflect the latest scholarship and 21st Century church models.

I am both a Pastor and Presiding Bishop for my church denomination in Hawaii and the Republic of Kiribati. I earned a Masters degree in Global Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary, and my definition of church includes both the "***church assembled***" (the weekly gatherings of believers we typically call *going to church*, in which citizens sing and pray together, encourage one another and learn about their faith), which leads to the '***church dispersed***' — the individual members of the church living out their faith in their political decisions, business ethics and personal relationships in their everyday lives. The **CHURCH DISPERSED** is individual, personal and every bit as much the church as the church assembled, yet the proposed law provides NO protection for the church dispersed, and little protection for the church assembled.

A local florist, baker, photographer or other service provider who is a devout believer is, in fact, the **CHURCH DISPERSED** and is provided NO legal

protection from being forced to violate their deeply held moral and theological stand against same-gender marriage, and they will be forced into situations that will clearly be a violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, which prohibits the federal government from making a law "respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof". The Hawaii State Constitution mirrors that: **No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof…** Any State law *prohibiting the free exercise of a person's faith* as part of the church dispersed is inherently unconstitutional.

The state clearly has no understanding of contemporary missional church models and bases their understanding only upon models like the Roman Catholic Church, a highly hierarchal, institutional church.

Respectfully,

Gary R. Langley
Presiding Bishop
Church of God of Prophecy
Hawai'i and the Republic of Kiribati

45-416 Kamehameha Highway
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Testimony for Public Hearing
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
October 25, 2013

S.B. No. 1 (JDL) – RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

Good morning Judiciary and Labor Committee members. My name is Jennifer Teixeira and as a registered voter in the State of Hawaii I would like to submit my testimony to OPPOSE SB1. I believe the proposed bill in its current form has serious constitutional issues that may infringe upon my family's 1st amendment protections and mine.

This matter of recognizing marriages between individuals of the same sex should be most carefully considered and I do not believe a special session provides adequate time to review all proposals, nor does it allow the people of Hawaii sufficient time to voice their opinions on this important matter.

Section 8 of SB1 (page 12) clearly states, "The legislature finds that the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage as a unique social institution based upon the committed union of one man and one woman." In 1998 I was one of the 68% that voted for this Amendment to our State Constitution. Did I miss the vote to over turn this? How can the legislature overturn what the people of Hawaii voted for without holding another vote?

I propose that the people of the State of Hawaii decide on this matter in our next scheduled election.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Teixeira

Senator Clayton Hee,
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
SENATE BILL 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Introduction

My name is Noekealaokalehua Kahalepuna and I am a Registered voter of Senate District 23. I am testifying against Senate Bill 1 The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of Hawaii.

Content

As written, SB-1 does not provide adequate religious protections. SB-1 should explicitly state that no religious organization, person, or business shall be required to provide or perform services for same sex weddings if doing so would violate their faith. That is what the First Amendment requires. SB-1 leaves churches and people of faith in the wedding-services industry vulnerable and at risk.

Many churches will be charged with discrimination if they refuse to allow same sex weddings to be solemnized on their properties. The exemptions included in SB-1 are only for the solemnization of the marriage. The exemptions do not cover same sex wedding receptions, celebrations, and anniversary parties.

On Page 2 of S.B. No. 1 line 11 it states that this bill protects religious freedom and liberty, but then it continues on line 17 with a condition. Clarifying that unless a religious organization allows use of its facilities or grounds by the general public for weddings for a profit, such organization shall not be required to make its facilities or grounds available for solemnization of any marriage celebration. This means that any church which allows weddings for a profit will then be forced against their religious beliefs to perform same sex weddings. That is blatantly taking away our religious rights and freedoms. The laws were made to protect our rights and freedoms. You cannot create a new law that will take away our existing rights and freedoms. The First Amendment protects from government interference. The government has absolutely no business ordering the church to conform to the state's desire in order to qualify for the protections.

In order to qualify for the exemptions, a church must only allow members to get married on its properties. Any church that allows non-members to be married in its buildings will not be able to claim this exemption. Discrimination charges will be filed against such a church if it refuses to host same sex weddings.

In order to qualify for the protections, the church must regularly use the portions of the property for religious purposes. If a couple asks to be married at the church and they want to use the bathrooms, parking lot, grassy lawn, kitchen, and hall, the Civil Rights Commission will inquire whether the parking lot, bathroom, and lawn are regularly used for religious purposes. If the answer is that any one of those areas is not used regularly for religious purposes, the church will not qualify for the protections.

If the legislature really wanted to exempt churches, it would simply say, “Churches are exempt”. The conditions attached to this bill leaves many churches vulnerable and in danger of facing discrimination complaints if they decline to host same-sex weddings.

Under Hawaii law, every photographer, baker, florist, and entertainer that serves weddings will also have to serve same sex weddings, even if the owner has a genuine religious belief that same sex marriage is wrong for him or her to support. It is not only clergy and churches that have First Amendment rights; everyday citizens do too. When the government forces someone to act in a way that goes against his or her sincerely held religious beliefs this violates the First Amendment.

The federal appeals court ruled in June 2013 that businesses do in fact religious liberty rights that protect the business from compulsion to violate the sincerely held religious beliefs of the owners. See the 10th Circuit Court of appeals opinion in the Hobby Lobby case.

Closing

SB-1 should explicitly state that no religious organization, person, or business shall be required to provide or perform services for same sex weddings if doing so would violate their faith. That is what the First Amendment requires.

Mahalo,

Noekealaokalehua Kahalepuna

(808) 489-2270

From: Bobbie
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Against Same Gender Proposed Bill
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:27:52 PM

We are submitting our testimonial to state that we oppose the Same Gender- S B1 Bill.
Respectfully, Eduardo Luna and Barbara Luna
Sent from my iPhone

From: Karla Schade
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony on Senate Bill 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:31:18 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labour
Senate Bill 1
Monday October 28, 2013
10:30am
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

My name is Karla Schade and I am a permanent resident of Laie Hawaii. I am writing to testify in opposition of the proposed Marriage Equity Act SB no1.

I am against redefining marriage, a marriage, as the fundamental unit of society, is between one man and one women. I greatly value the constitution of this country and the principles of its founding, namely the 1st amendment and the religious freedom granted there in. All the protections and benefits of marriage were provided in the 2011 Civil Unions Measure, which is prefaced by the statement that the people of Hawaii recognize marriage as between One Man and One Woman. I have read this bill and unlike others passed in many other states, provides completely inadequate protections for religious entities in this state.

I believe that this special session is designed to push through a bill that has been inadequately reviewed and to not allow the people of this state to voice their opinion. I think that not all of the unintended consequences of this bill have been thought through very well and the ramifications to small business owners/employees and religious individuals and organizations have not been protected. If it is a good bill why not give it time to be debated and the consequences discussed and/or voted upon by the people?

In closing, I urge you to **VOTE NO** ON THE PROPSED MARRIAGE EQUITY ACT, and encourage other members of the legislative assembly to do so as well.

Karla Schade
Laie Hawaii
55-470 Moana St
808 293 9734

From:	kukamalia888@aol.com
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Cc:	Sepe Asher Ochoa; Gordean Yoshii; Vicky Kawamae Cell#; Pastor Charley Westbrook; Tina Abagon
Subject:	NO Same Sex Marriage
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 12:43:26 PM

I am writing to protest this proposed bill on Same-Sex Marriage here in Hawaii.
I have 6 children. 4 of them are married to hetero-sexual spouses. I have brought my children up in a household where there was a husband and a wife. Two men can not create a baby. Two women can not create a baby. Only the union of a man and a woman, can make a baby. That is my foundation and basis to protest this bill. That is my core belief. That is what I live by and teach my children and grandchildren! I will not accept my rights to be sold into believing otherwise.
A gay person came from a man and a woman! Gays have moral issues where they are unhappy in their own bodies. Gays should not get married, not adopt nor raise children! I am protesting this Bill.
Susan Broussard
Mililani Mauka
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From:	Steven Oishi
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	FOR THE SENATE HEARING : Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30 am
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 12:47:45 PM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My Business colleagues from the United States, Japan and Europe feel that Hawaii would not be a good place to bring their family and children if the same sex marriage gets approved.

When this issue first came out it was evident that the majority of the people in Hawaii were against legalizing the Same Sex Marriage. As the people, we have elected you and all of the Committee Members to represent us. I am asking that you let the people of Hawaii make that decision to vote in, or to decline this law.

A L O H A

President
Steven I Oishi
Aloha State Brokerage Inc.
1001 Dillingham Blvd. Suite #212
Honolulu, HI 96817
stevenoishi@alohastatebrokerage.com
808-847-4640 Office
808-848-7781 Fax

From: Bryana
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Regards to Same-Sex Marriage Bill
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:51:42 PM

To whom this may concern,

I am submitting a testimony in my stance of Opposing this Same-Sex Bill to be passed on Monday, October 28th, 2013. I am a citizen and a Christian striving to be heard in letting the People vote on Same-Sex Marriage. I believe that if this bill takes place that Freedom of Religion will be altered by the laws of the land and not the will of God. In the bible it testifies that marriage is ONLY to be between a man and a woman, a female and a male. We as citizens in the state; people on this earth, CAN NOT alter that law or belief that has been placed. People who do not practice any sort of belief may not feel that this will be a defining effect for them but for me as a Christian, born and raised, it will affect many dramatically. I know that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever and he does not move or change what he has said. And we as members who believe in him will stand by his side.

Society has pushed pressure on the Government to make this issue become of acceptance in this day and age and has made it feel that this life style is okay to practice. However it is NOT. I understand that you can not tell someone how to live their lives or what they should believe but for those of us who truly care about this issue, I KNOW that things will not be the same.

I am a Mormon speaking on behalf of myself and the issue that comes with this bill being passed is the allowing of same sex marriages to take place in the Temple.I strongly believe and have been taught that marriage is between man and a woman and those who are worthy are able to become eternally sealed when married in the temple. If this bill is passed, a same-sex couple can request to be married in the temple and BY LAW, they are able to, but through GOD'S eyes and his teachings, the marriage will mean nothing because it is not of what he has testified.

Most importantly, our Freedom of Religion will be taken from us. The Freedom of Religion is not fulfilled if we as members of a certain church or congregation have to accept the practice of Same-Sex marriage by law when it is AGAINST what we believe and teach. The choice to inform same sex couples that performing a marriage through the church is unacceptable under God's teachings is not granted because by law they are able to facilitate such.

As well with marriages, the essence of FAMILY goes hand in hand. It will be unsuccessful if there is not a Mother and Father to love, nurture, and teach their children. I have heard of same-sex couples raising adopted children and everything is okay, and that's fine, but I believe and have been taught that when we are married we must multiply and replenish this Earth. We must be loving parents to our children and instill in them teachings that will be with them where ever they may go. Same-sex couples are unable to fulfill this commandment if married within the church.

I understand that you may have heard this same testimony or of the similar once or twice or even hundreds. but I am a Christian, as well as a Citizen, who could NOT go without being heard. Whether you believe in him or not, God is there. And he is the same yesterday, today, and forever and I will stand by his side forever.

Once again I am Opposing the Same-Sex Marriage Bill.

Thank you for your time,

Bryana Kekauoha

Testimony Against Same-Sex Marriage

1. I am opposed because this bill, combined with the previously passed accommodations law, compels conscientious objectors to ACCOMMODATE lascivious behaviors
    a. Forced accommodation is wrong, it violates the 1st amendment
    b. Language of bill is insufficient to protect religious liberty
    c. No protections at all for individuals, small businesses, & religious schools
2. Rights to freedom of conscience and religion are denied
    a. This bill will lead to litigation
    b. Do not leave it for the courts to settle; do it right the first time
3. The people of Hawai'i already decided this in 1998
    a. This special session is political stunt by the Hawaii Democratic party which needs to reimburse the state of Hawaii for this unnecessary expense
    b. Same-sex marriage has waited for millennia; it can wait a few more months
4. Slippery slope: is every behavior now a right? Are these next:
    a. "Entertainment equality" for gamblers
    b. "Driving equality" for drunks
    c. "Expression equality" for graffiti vandals
    d. "Buzz equality" for meth heads
    e. "Printing equality" for counterfeiters
    f. "Age equality" for pedophiles
5. Homosexual behavior is not a right, it is wrong! Religion has nothing to do with it
    a. Same-sex *orientation* is neutral
    b. Homosexual *behavior* is harmful to individuals and communities
        i. High risk, irresponsible; their sexual activity is unspeakably perverse
        ii. Gay males have hundreds of "partners" in a lifetime
        iii. Coercive, exploitive, deceptive, violent, pernicious: it has always been
6. Beware the use of deceptive vocabulary
    a. "Marriage equality" for unequal, counterfeit relationships
    b. "Rights": sodomy is not a civil right. No rights should be granted to special groups for special behaviors.
    c. "Homophobe" is used to attack anyone who dares to disagree
    d. Gays are portrayed as "victims" but they behave rudely, vandalize, physically intimidate their opponents with threats of violence
    e. "Unfair". It also unfair to discriminate against drunk drivers but it is necessary
    f. "Separation of church and state" is trotted out anytime there is a mention of religion; meanwhile, gays commit hate-crimes against church buildings
    g. Tolerance: Gays demand it yet will not tolerate any who disagree with them (ask Mike Gabbard what happened to him for opposing gays)
7. Mixed message: the state mandates safety (seat belts laws, prohibiting texting while driving, etc) but now endorses harmful "gay" behavior
8. This is not about religion: 1000s of years of human experience teach us that homosexual behavior is wrong
    a. Change to public opinion in last 20yrs is based upon distortions (see 6 above)
    b. Now days, anything goes; are there no limits to behavior or decency?
    c. Our kupuna were wiser; listen to them: Say no to homosexual behavior

Conscientious Objector of Same-Sex marriage

State compulsory ACCOMMODATION violates constitutional rights!

Hawaii State Government Says

You must ACCOMMODATE homosexual behavior

You are not allowed to disagree!

OPPOSED to mandatory ACCOMMODATIONS of same sex marriage

Freedom of religion language is insufficient

Respect for people with same-sex orientation!

No to Government endorsement of lascivious behavior!

No to counterfeit marriage

October 26, 2013

Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB1

For Hearing on 10/28/31

Aloha,

I am not okay with SB1 being passed. I do not believe that same sex marriage is appropriate or right. I do NOT want my children to be taught that same sex relationships are normal or right. I believe marriage is ONLY between one man and one woman. If this bill gets passed then the State of Hawaii will be mandating that I have to believe same sex marriage is normal. That is wrong. I have a right to believe same sex marriage is wrong. Just as much right as the one who says it is not wrong. I am a citizen of the United States of America and a local resident of the State Of Hawaii. I do not want this bill passed.

I will be present to testify.

Thank you,

Grace Alarcio

91-1156 Ho'Omahana Street

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

808-445-1450

Grace.Alarcio@yahoo.com

Chantelle Nakata
98-1068 #98B Komo Mai Drive
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

1. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
2. It fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits.
3. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits.
4. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members from lawsuits.
5. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Chantelle Nakata
Hawaii Voter

This bill is a disaster at best, and the demise of a culture at its worst. This bill is a 'rage against society', attempting to silence any opposition. It removes Freedom of Religion and Speech. It wants all freedom FROM religion, and wants no condemnation or opposition in speech. It is a bill to satisfy a few at the cost of the majority. And it is being rushed, to be jammed through at all costs. This is WRONG, UNCONSTITUTIONAL, and UNDEMOCRATIC. This is Not OHANA, OR ALOHA.

It is a bill that is **EXTREMELY CONTENTIOUS**, and 5 days cannot address all the issues associated with this bill adequately in this short of time. Some of these issues are the lack of protection this bill covers regarding Freedom of Speech. It does not allow any opposition from anyone regarding this topic. It would allow the Civil Rights Commission to determine if someone, or some place of business, is not in compliance. The same goes for the Freedom of Religion, and once again, it will give the Civil Rights Commission the power to determine if someone, or some place of business, is or is not in compliance. This is a conflict of interest as they assisted in writing the bill. It also allows the possibility of a 'power grab', which could lead to a thug style of business. This is NOT our Ohana way.

Redefining marriage was given in 1998 to the legislation to define marriage. In that year, 76% of the voters clearly stated that marriage was to be defined between the opposite sex. It did NOT state that the legislative branch could alter the definition between same sexes. It is a bogus argument to try and justify the position that the legislative branch has the power to change the wording of the meaning of the bill that the masses understood to be of marriage between opposite sex couples. Trying to define marriage to include same sex is a deliberate deception.

Also, this bill of a 'no amendment' clause, states 'marriage for 15 years and older', allowing the legislation to **legalize statutory rape**, as defined in the Hawaii code of legal talk. A 15 year old in Hawaii is considered a minor. You are also circumventing the parents responsibility for allowing the courts and NOT parents, to decide on such a set-up. This bill also does NOT protect religious institutions, facilities, and/or properties from frivolous lawsuits as we have seen on the mainland. The lack of clarity on this issue is a can of worms to say the least. Washington, Oregon, New Mexico, New Hampshire, and Hawaii are a few of the states that faced unnecessary lawsuits because someone's feelings were 'hurt'. Not one of those cases was refused any service or product where another place of business was offered as an alternative. No satisfaction to the 'offended' homosexual was acceptable except for the demise of the companies. This law will open up more such lawsuits, with the threat of putting businesses on edge, especially is such an unstable economy that we have now.

Looking at this bill and the rush to pass it shows the willful and deceitful intent of this bill. There was NO JUSTIFICATION for this special session that the taxpayers will have to pay. Sadly, it is the politicians who have to 'dog and pony' this show for the governor. And sadly, it is Hawaii's legislation that is being made pawns in a knee-jerk reaction of 'feelings' for those wanting this bill rushed to passage. It is also a projection of a false discrimination, of 'inequality' regarding marriage. Marriage is NOT a right.

Civil Unions was made into law to satisfy the desire for marriage in the homosexual community. There are presently two or more open bills to amend for any inadequacies that the current Civil Union laws

affect. This would AVOID the whole issue of radically redefining marriage as it is historically, traditionally, and culturally defined.

In Summary this special session should be stopped IMMEDIATELY. If not stopped, then voted NO due to:

- It is UNCONSTITUTIONAL

-It is UNDEMOCRATIC

-It is INTENTIONALLY DECEPTIVE AND MISLEADING

-It allows STATUTORY RAPE and CIRCUMVENTING Parental Rights

-It allows lawmakers to be used as PAWNS

-It denies FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND FREEDOM OF RELIGION

IT IS THE **MOST CONTENTIOUS** BILL THAT NEEDS MORE THAN 5 DAYS TO BE ADEQUATELY HEARD.

IT NEEDS TO BE PUT TO THE VOTERS----P E R I O D .

From: Kathleen Campbell
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: I oppose SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 4:09:57 PM
Attachments: SSM_Consequences_FLYER_draft (1).pdf
SSM_consequences Massachsettes_2012.pdf

Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees:

I do not support S.B. NO. 1 for the following reasons

The intended and / or unintended consequences on society are very clear and all point to a break down of our civil society; invading the family and home. **Attached are 2 papers talking about the CONSEQUENCES of same sex "marriage." These are facts, not opinions.**

No one is really addressing the foundation of this bill, and as such, we, as Americans, are being disingenuous. Although uncomfortable and emotional, we must include a dialog of morality on this issue.

Some would have us think that our society has progressed to the point where we must embrace homosexuality in this societal progressive evolution, but homosexuality is not new. It has been around for a long time; dating back 3000 BC, to Moses day and the Bible; which really brings us to two questions:

1. Who has authority to define "morality?" The Bible or the State? The Bible clearly states that homosexual behavior is immoral. Just as pornography, murder, rape, theft, etc. of which our civil government, through our laws, prescribes.

Our nation's virtue and morality were founded in the Judeo Christian ethic; based on the words, the truths and the principles of the Christian Bible. This is not debatable. There are volumes of documentation supporting our nation's acknowledgement and reliance on God; which leads to the second question

2. Is this still "One Nation Under God"? Does God still have a place in the "American experiment?"

President Gerald Ford said: *"Without God there could be no American form of government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first - the most basic-expression of Americanism. Thus the found fathers of America saw it, and thus with God's help, it will continue to be."*

Making any immoral lifestyle A LAW brings death to a civil society. The ONLY way any

immorality celebrated could remotely be accepted is if we, as a nation, remove God and the Judeo Christian ethic out of civil government. Because this is the problem… God and the Bible. By voting to legalize same sex "marriage", aren't our "representatives" really voting to do just this… remove God and the Judeo Christian ethic out of our civil government?

This testimony is respectfully submitted by

Kathleen Campbell
1794 Halama St.
Kihei, HI
96753

October 26, 2013

Dear Leaders of our State,

I humbly thank you for the opportunity to share my heart and thoughts regarding this very difficult issue. First I would like to confess that I, like every human being born am broken, and in desperate need of grace. My view is not an attack or bias against any person but a desire to speak the truth in love with a standard that is beyond myself but that which gives us a reference point in which we live and truly love one another.

Francis Schaeffer once said, “For any finite particulars to have any meaning in life, it has to have an infinite reference point.” For us as humans to have any meaning, purpose or any responsible moral code to live by, we need an infinite reference point. If we all had our own reference point then on one can condemn or approve any law or moral behavior as right or wrong.

Who is to say that Adolph Hitler did any wrong unless we have a standard that says, “Thou shall not kill.” Mr. Hitler thought he was doing the world a favor through his ethnic cleansing but it went against a higher moral law that brings a reference point of what was right and wrong.

I humbly submit that God himself and His word is and has been the reference point for us and our country since the birth of our nation. Our forefathers had the Bible as our reference point, moral compass, laws, rules of conduct and absolutes that allowed our society to have a foundation of thought and conduct to live by.

We can however choose to submit to His ways and principles or change and make our own rules to live by, but we must understand that although we have the freedom to make those choices, we do not have the freedom from the consequences of our choices.

It is with this heavy heart that I share my deep, deep concern for the direction that our country, our state and even our families are moving, from once being a people who stood upon God’s word as our guide to having our own reasoning and relative moral compass to be a guide for ourselves.

If we look at the history of the human race, we can conclude that

when society turns away from God's divine purposes and ways, it ends up being corrupt and self-destructive.

About 2000 years ago, the apostle Paul wrote a letter to the Roman church. It is almost scary how his words penned at that time resonate so true for us today. I humbly ask that you take some time to connect with this passage and ask what responsibility as leaders who will help shape our future should respond to the decision that will soon be addressed and made.

Romans 1:18-32

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. **19** For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. **20** For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. **21** For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22** Claiming to be wise, they became fools, **23** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, **25** because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; **27** and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. **29** They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, **30** slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, **31** foolish, faithless, heartless,

ruthless. **32** Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

When Jesus walked this earth, his life demonstrated what true love really meant. He loved sinners and reached out to the world around him. When confronted with the Pharisees who wanted to stone a woman caught in adultery he told her accusers, “He who is without sin cast the first stone.” One by one they all left. Alone with the woman he spoke love and truth to her. He said, “neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more.” Jesus loved the sinner but hated her sin. He knew that it was sin that would destroy us. Homosexuals are loved by God, but like any behavior that does not conform to God’s standard; God cannot condone that behavior. Although a murderer, liar, fornicator, or thief are all loved by God, their behavior is not acceptable.

That we must love despite ones sexual orientation is no doubt. However there are deeper and greater issues that compel me to say that allowing same sex marriage will be a step away from God’s Heart and Purpose for marriage and family and thus we will reap the consequences that will continue the turning away from His perfect and good plan for our lives. I am saddened to say this but I too must share my heart. Thank you for taking the time to hear my heart!

Aloha Ke Akua,

Ronald Kam

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: punabaptistpahoa@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:35:26 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Alan Tamashiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose SB-1. I believe this special session violates our democratic process. This is a highly controversial bill. The voice of the people has been excluded from this process. This bill will alter our island lifestyle and culture. We are all products our Kapuna and our parents. Our earliest concepts of male and female characteristics come from our ancestors. This bill will change our definition of family. Please vote no and let this issue be decided by a larger body of decision makers.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	reidd001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:14:07 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Polly Reid	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please vote NO on Senate Bill 1.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	jdnaka808@hawaiiantel.net
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:19:03 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Donna Nakamura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Submitting testimony as an individual regarding my opposition to the legislation regarding same sex marriage. This bill has huge ramifications to families, children, education and religious freedoms. this is too important to allow the legislative body (which I feel is heavily biased and politicized to be meaningfully representative of their constituent's beliefs) to be the determining voice for this issue. I support the option of having Hawaii's people vote on the issue . . . it's the right thing to do. I respectfully request the issue be given the time and voice it needs so that we can do the right thing for the majority of our people and not for the purpose of satisfying a minority position.

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File attachment: wordicon.exe
The file attached to this email was removed
because the file name is not allowed.
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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: chito_sumulong@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:22:31 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Chito S. Sumulong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This is the most important reason. Whenever one violates the natural moral order established by God, one sins and offends God. Same-sex “marriage” does just this. Accordingly, anyone who professes to love God must be opposed to it. Marriage is not the creature of any State. Rather, it was established by God in Paradise for our first parents, Adam and Eve. As we read in the Book of Genesis: “God created man in His image; in the Divine image he created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them, saying: ‘Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.’” (Gen. 1:28-29) The same was taught by Our Savior Jesus Christ: “From the beginning of the creation, God made them male and female. For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother; and shall cleave to his wife.” (Mark 10:6-7). Genesis also teaches how God punished Sodom and Gomorrah for the sin of homosexuality: “The Lord rained down sulphurous fire upon Sodom and Gomorrah. He overthrew those cities and the whole Plain, together with the inhabitants of the cities and the produce of the soil.” (Gen. 19:24-25)

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Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
October 28, 2013
10:30 AM Hearing

Dear Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Susan Duffy. I have been married for a little over 30 years and my husband and I have two teenage daughters. I am writing to urge you to oppose any bill that would legalize same sex marriage and to reject any legislation that would seek to to undermine the institution of marriage as we know it. Marriage equality cannot be achieved by making same sex couples the equivalent of opposite sex couples.

The essential public purpose of marriage is to attach mothers and fathers to their children and to one another. Marriage is adult society's institutional structure for protecting the legitimate interests of children who also have rights in our society. Children deserve to have a mother and a father. I am sure you have heard from many professional organizations that claim that same sex couples make fine parents but I would caution against such optimistic claims particularly since we know that some of these studies have been called out for used flawed methodologies.

Furthermore, we have not even begun to explore all of the unintended consequences that are cropping up all over where same sex marriage has been legalized. We already have civil unions in Hawaii and our understanding was that this was enough. We had to have civil unions so that same sex partners could have their benefits. If need be, go in and change the civil union's law so that they can get their federal benefits. There is no reason to take such a dramatic step in record time to fundamentally change the institution of marriage via a special session.

If you vote yes to any bill which undermines marriage, you will harm your constituents in ways that you can't even begin to imagine and all for the sake of giving the title of "married" to same sex couples who head less than 1% of Hawaii's households. If you are so certain that the people want to have same sex marriage legalized here in the islands, then by all means, put it to a vote of the people, but do not use a special session to slip this through thinking we won't notice.

Please, for the sake of the future children of the state of Hawaii, resist the pressure you are facing. Please vote no on any measure that seeks to legalize same sex marriage.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: mmnpang@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:34:18 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Minnie Pang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Same-sex marriage should not be passed in a special session. Traditional marriage is best in raising children by their biological father & mother. Marriage was established to join a man & a woman on Holy matrimony and shall remain as that. The U.S. dollar bill stated - IN GOD WE TRUST, we need to respect what GOD taught us to preserve this Country.

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Lynette K. Serrao
99-113 Pamoho Pl.
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and a woman in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman.

In addition, the Senate bill does not provide protections for the rights of parents to remove their children from public school classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of marriage between a man and a woman. It re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage.

The Senate bill does not properly protect religious institutions. Many churches have nonprofit organizations to help them carry out their religious missions, such as religious schools and colleges. The Senate bill covers only "religious organizations." Unlike protections in other states, it does not protect these other important institutions that are vital to churches. Many churches charge fees for the use of their chapels for weddings so they can use the additional money to support important religious activities, such as their youth ministry or program to feed the hungry. The Senate bill excludes protections for churches that do so.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Lynette K. Serrao

Lynette K. Serrao
Hawaii Voter

Jonathan J. U. Serrao
99-113 Pamoho Pl.
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 for the following reasons:

It denies individual citizens their 1st Amendment right of freedom of religion upon which this country was founded. One of the reasons that our forefathers left the mother country was due to religious persecution.

It redefines the most core institution of society which is marriage. Marriage between a man and a woman is for the founding and establishing of families.

It fails to protects churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits. It will also fail to protect Bishop's, Priest's and other Clergy members from lawsuits.

It provides no protection for the right of religious parents to remove their children from public school classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of marriage between a man and a woman.

It is in opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. The people of Hawaii need to vote on this matter.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Jonathan J. U. Serrao

Jonathan J. U. Serrao
Hawaii Voter

From:	Dave Beadle
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Special Session concerning same sex marriage
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:09:58 PM
Attachments:	consequencesofweakreligiousfreedomprotectioninsamese.zip

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First let me state that I am against same sex marriage. Marriage is not about love, it is not about sex, or a contract, it is not a right. Marriage is about the family. It involves children. The family predates all other institutions, ie government, banking, education, religion...hence government, which derives its power from the people, can not redefine an institution that is older than itself short of being tyrannical. The family is a natural by product of a man and a woman creating a family together...and governments getting involved in the past is because society across the globe recognizes that a healthy stable family as that creates stability for the whole society, and therefore has created means to protect and promote the traditional family. Kids need both a Father and a Mother. Yes they can survive with a single parent or same sex parents...but it is in their best interests and the communities best interest to have children raised by a father and a mother.

Now if two or more adults want to live together and do whatever they please to each other...that is not what makes a family...but I could really care less, more power to them. However, when they declare that I must accept their lifestyle as wholesome and good, I am sorry that violates my religious understandings of right and wrong. I strongly believe that the family comes from God himself, and follows natural law (that is we should see the family appear naturally...and we do in the traditional sense...two females can't have kids nor can two males without artificially making it happen.

It greatly bothers me that businesses have been forced to bake cakes, be their photographer, host their wedding, under the banner that it is their civil right. Well there are two rights these tyrannical laws violate, the right to freely associate and do business with whom I wish to do business with...it doesn't matter if someone else thinks I am wrong...we have a natural right to associate and do business in a free society. The other right it violates is my religious freedom. If you must pass a gay marriage law, then there must be language in place to protect these rights...religious freedom and the freedom to freely associate with whom I wish to associate with. In other words I should not be forced in any way, as an individual, perform any action I do not want to do. There is no harm to them in denying my services because they can go somewhere else.

Attached are two pdf documents that I am including as part of my argument.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: rmakaiwi@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:28:17 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Rachel Makaiwi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to the bill as it is written. According to SB 1, "Religious organizations and facilities; liability exemption under certain circumstances. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, no religious organization shall be subject to any fine, penalty, injunction, administrative proceeding, or civil liability for refusing to make its facilities or grounds available for solemnization of any marriage celebration under this chapter; provided that the religious organization does not make its facilities or grounds available to the general public for solemnization of any marriage celebration for a Profit." Although attempting to protect the religious freedoms of organizations throughout Hawaii, this bill fails to protect the rights of religious organizations. As written, the rights of religious groups are only protected "provided that the religious organization does not make its facilities or grounds available to the general public for solemnization of any marriage celebration for a Profit." Speaking from my own experiences, my church facilities have always been open to people of all backgrounds. Sharing what we have to all in a nonjudgmental attitude has allowed us to continue to treat others with equality and fairness. However, this bill is threatening our ability to share our facilities with everyone regardless of their religious affiliation or sexual orientations. I urge you to change the wording of this bill to truly protect the rights of religious organizations and all citizens throughout Hawaii. Thank you for your time.

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Andrey N. Krez
2611 Ala Wai Boulevard
Apartment 1405
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Senate President
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813
and Members of the Senate

RE: In opposition to passing SB1 as currently written

Dear Senate President Kim and Members of the Senate,

After consideration of all sides, and a very contentious debate, I strongly am in opposition to the passing of SB1 as currently written. Most parties seem to discuss and argue this issue based on emotion on both sides; I invite you to look at it from fact and not emotion. Three concerns of mine in the bill are: 1) the overt removal of verbiage restricting the First Amendment rights and considerations of the US Constitution, 2) the inaccuracy that this is a civil rights issue, and 3) the surprising refusal to protect the citizens and the previous votes therefrom.

1. **Alteration of the SB1 Section 1, paragraphs 3(a), and (b);**

   This section reads as follows and no longer acknowledges that clergy have a constitutional right to uphold millennia of religious teachings by refusing to participate in gay marriage ceremonies. Furthermore, it removes a broad general provision of (in the private sector) who can solemnize to a narrow restriction, removing the inherent First Amendment rights of ALL citizens. This restricts the Constitution as well. Where previous verbiage includes a broader inclusion of persons

   Refusal to solemnize a marriage. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require any person authorized to perform solemnizations pursuant to this chapter to solemnize any marriage in violation of the person's rights as guaranteed by the Constitution of this State and the United States Constitution. No authorized person who fails or refuses to solemnize any marriage under this section shall be subject to any fine, penalty, injunction, administrative proceeding, or civil liability for the failure or refusal. (08/22/2013)

   compared to now

Refusal to solemnize a marriage. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require any minister, priest, officer of any religious denomination or society, or religious society not having clergy but providing solemnizations that is authorized to perform solemnizations pursuant to this chapter to solemnize any marriage, and no such minister, priest, officer of any religious denomination or society, or religious society not having clergy that fails or refuses for any reason to solemnize any marriage under this section shall be subject to any fine, penalty, or other civil action for the failure or refusal. (10/19/2013)

The state can allow same-sex marriage, but cannot force a private citizen to solemnize, or tolerate the union. This is a clear violation of the First Amendment. Even the state of California recognizes marriage dually, both as 1) civil, and 2) religious. The latter the state cannot regulate. And it is a person's individual right to operate a private business as they see fit.

We see this daily in Hawaii in the tourist industry. Many businesses clearly cater and have inherent discrimination based on a person's race or geographic origination; we tolerate this. If a private business chooses not to cater to any person that does not adhere to the values (real or perceived) of the company's business plan and motto, they have the right. Conversely, if a private company wishes to cater specifically to a special niche market, they can do so. Both have equal opportunity to fail or succeed, this should not be coerced by legislation. This is determined by the private market and businesses, and the acceptance or refusal of them. In the public sector, legislation to assure complete diversity should be the norm, however.

2. **The inaccuracy that this is a civil rights issue.**

One of the most respected civil rights leaders, Dr. Martin Luther King defined this the best. In an excerpt from his letters in the Birmingham jail, he defined a civil right as the right (including civil disobedience) to correct and right the wrongs of **unjust laws**. Specifically, an unjust law is a code inflicted upon a minority which that minority had no part in enacting or creating because it did not have the unhampered right to vote.

In the case of SB1, we are not correcting any unjust law to two persons who wish to share their life. Under the current civil-unions bill in this State, they have all the rights. Furthermore, and legally under any contracts created between them there is no discrimination. When we think of those who are harmed, most persons do not feel homosexuals are discriminated against in 2013 in the United States. Studies and facts are evident looking at the lifestyles of most homosexuals, that in the United States, they have a high proportion of higher education, more disposable income and investments, and travel proportionately higher than heterosexual couples. There is no civil right issue here. Take a look at homosexuals in many African, Asian, and Middle Eastern countries and the inhumanities they struggle with; after which, you can understand the argument of a civil right is misunderstood and dilutes true and real issues that are unjust.

The fact is that there is no law on the books written that overtly discriminates or restricts a person for being a homosexual. There are no rights in the Constitution to marriage. This is equal for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation. If society wants this, there are procedures to change the Constitution and add this right.

3. **Blatant dismissal of the Hawaii Voters**

We have had this issue in discussion for years, and it is time to move on. The issue was put forth to the voters, and the voters decided as a society what the definition of marriage is. Given our unique and very open and tolerant society, the legislative body put forth the civil-unions bill, which was past and has not had much opposition. It was fair, and put us in the column of tolerant states. Fast forward, and allow high-profile attorneys from the mainland [names withheld for libel, but we know who they are] must stir up our unique and loving society.

With the stroke of the pen, SB1 has blatantly removed HRS §572C (2), which was written as a direct result of the voters of the State of Hawaii, and provided a compromise of most parties.

Now, the voters feel violated. This issue should be brought forth to voters with the terms as you are attempting to pass in SB1, with directness, transparency, and proper debate.

The State of Hawaii has a unique and strong tradition of family and unity. The changing of the law today as written, actually creates more angst, contention and intolerance from all sides. Today you are considering not just a bill or law that addresses temporal concerns of the community, but a law that transforms the fundamental basis of the family and the continued slippery slope of the loss of Constitutional Rights, notwithstanding the trust of the Legislative branch.

Regardless of your decision, remember, this is a vote that will be inscribed in history, one not from the people. Make sure you are on the ethical side of history—not just the popular.

Sincerely,

Andrey N. Krez
Travel Professional

October 24, 2013

Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
Written Testimony Only

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

I am writing in opposition to the proposed Senate Bill 1, relating to Equal Rights that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

I strongly feel that same gender marriage is contrary to our fundamental religious beliefs. We feel that marriage is a sacred union that is reserved for a man and a woman, whereby children are born, nurtured and best raised by the father and the mother who brought them into this world.

The Bill that is being proposed extinguishes my religious liberty, and does not provide adequate protection clauses for clergies, religious organizations, its affiliates and individual members of the church.

The Bill excludes any protection clauses for individuals and small businesses. As a small business owner, this infringes on my rights of free enterprise and freedom of choice.

This Bill also excludes protection for our children in public schools and the negative content of their curriculum which will go against their religious teachings and upbringing.

I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to SB1 relating to Equal Rights.

Sincerely,

Leonard Tanaka
1390 Keneki Place
Hilo, HI 96720

To the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

The following testimony is submitted for the public hearing regarding SB1 during the special session convening on 28 Oct 2013. The public hearing is scheduled for Monday, 28 Oct 2013 at 10:30 a.m. at the Capitol Auditorium. As a neighbor island resident, will not be testifying In person and request written testimony provided be accepted for SB1, relating to equal rights.

My personal beliefs are that marriage is ordained of God and the family unit is part of that designation, with a husband and wife providing a nurturing environment for their children. This has been the convention of the human race for thousands of years. That said, I recognize that there are many who do not agree with my religious beliefs.

We live in a Democratic Republic where the rights of the minority are not to be trampled by those of the majority. In our modern times, we have alternative lifestyles with people choosing not to have traditional marriages. As fellow citizens, we all have unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. However, it is important that we do not trample on other people's freedom and the pursuit of their happiness. Public law is instituted to protect such freedoms, whether they are regarding religious or moral beliefs. It is incumbent on law makers to provide equal protections for all citizens.

Definition of Marriage:

The convention of marriage is so fundamental to our society that we have great difficulty separating civil liberties and the marriage itself. The ruling of United States vs. Windsor against Section 3 of DOMA is that the Federal Government must recognize same-sex marriages approved by the states under the 5th Amendment's Due Process Clause. The case revolved around probate proceedings and the due process for a Canadian same-sex marriage recognized in New York. The Supreme Court ruling does not require the State of Hawaii to recognize or allow same-sex marriage.

I had hoped that Civil Unions could be federally recognized and Due Process protection provided to all citizens without the redefinition of marriage. The legislature should consider seeking equal protection and Federal recognition of state recognized Civil Unions as an alternative. Yes, the draft bill states: *"It is the intent of the legislature that there be no legal distinction between same-sex married couples and opposite-sex married couples with respect to marriage under the laws of this State."* It could also be worded that **"there be no legal distinction between same-sex civil union couples and opposite-sex married couples with respect to marriage protections under the laws of this State."** Equal protections, Federal recognition and due process can be provided without redefining marriage.

In the event you disagree with the above arguments, let's consider a second option. Over the centuries, both religious and common law marriage became a civil institution. The Christian viewpoint of marriage included raising children, promoting mutual fidelity and chastity, and be united man and wife in a bond of love derived from God. As this institution became widespread, Civil marriage has become, in the secular view, a public commitment to maintain a stable relationship in which they will support one another and their dependents.

Not to trample upon the religious protections of the First Amendment, the Supreme Court has ruled that "the clause against establishment of religion by law was intended to erect 'a wall of separation between Church and State.'" The cause of religious organizations should revolve around the separation between Religious Marriage and Civil Marriage. There should be an option for licensing to perform opposite-sex, same-sex or both types of marriage.

If, on the basis of religious beliefs, an individual or religious institution refuses to perform same-sex marriage, they should be able to request a license limited to solemnization of opposite-sex marriages only. There may be clergy who refuse to perform opposite-sex marriages. It would be equally unfair to force them to perform against their religious beliefs. Allowing them the option to be licensed to solemnize marriages according to their beliefs, would ensure that neither would be licensed to perform beyond their religious beliefs. If the legislature would prefer, specific definitions may be added to define Religious Marriage separately from Civil Marriage.

Specific Concerns:

§572-C Right of parents.

- *"These rights shall include, but are not limited to, paternity, maternity, and parentage presumptions based on marriage. "*
    - Consider the ramifications if an opposite-sex married couple divorces and the party with primary custody enters into same-sex marriage. Are the parental rights of biological parents protected against "parentage presumptions based on marriage?" Although custody proceedings are normally dictated by Family Court, this wording also introduces parentage rights of same-sex married couples into future custody proceedings.

§572-F Refusal to solemnize a marriage.

- *"Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require any minister, priest, officer of any religious denomination or society, or religious society not having clergy but providing solemnizations that is authorized to perform solemnizations pursuant to this chapter to solemnize any marriage, and no such minister, priest, officer of any religious denomination or society, or religious society not having clergy that fails or refuses for any reason to solemnize any marriage under this section shall be subject to any fine, penalty, or other civil action for the failure or refusal."*
    - If given the option to choose to be authorized for opposite-sex, same-sex or both marriages, may alleviate this problem.
    - The wording is overly complicated and leaves room for misinterpretation. Other states have better protection statements.
        - New York's Marriage Equality Bill states it as: **"A refusal by a benevolent organization or a religious corporation, incorporated under the education law or the religious corporations law, to provide accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges in connection with section ten-a of this article shall not create a civil claim or cause of action."**
        - Vermont states it as: **"This section does not require a member of the clergy authorized to solemnize a marriage as set forth in subsection (a) of this section, nor societies of Friends or Quakers, the Christadelphian Ecclesia, or the Baha'i Faith to solemnize any marriage, and any refusal to do so shall not create any civil claim or cause of action."**

- The current wording only protects individuals and not religious organizations from refusal to solemnize marriage. As subtle as this may seem, it does not prevent lawsuits against religious organizations or societies for failure to perform same-sex marriages.

§572-G Religious organizations and facilities; liability exemption under certain circumstances.

- *"(a) A religious organization shall not be required to make a religious facility owned or leased by the religious organization available for solemnization of a particular marriage; provided that:"*
  - Section (a) should stop at the first line. NO religious organization should be required to make a religious facility owned or leased by that religious organization available for solemnization of a particular marriage. Subsections (1), (2), and (3) should be removed.
  - Vermont's 2010 Bill S-115 states: "The civil marriage laws shall not be construed to affect the ability of a society to determine the admission of its members as provided in section 4464 of this title, or to determine the scope of beneficiaries in accordance with section 4477 of this title, and **shall not require a society that has been established and is operating for charitable and educational purposes and which is operated, supervised, or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization to provide insurance benefits to any person if to do so would violate the society's free exercise of religion, as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution of United States** or by Chapter I, Article 3 or the Constitution of the State of Vermont."
  - New York's Marriage Equality Bill states: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, pursuant to subdivision nine of section two hundred ninety-two of the executive law, a corporation incorporated under the benevolent orders law or described in the benevolent orders law but formed under any other law of this state or **a religious corporation incorporated under the education law or the religious corporations laws shall be deemed to be in its nature distinctly private and therefore, shall not be required to provide accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges related to the solemnization or celebration of a marriage.**"
  - There should be no restriction to the exemption of religious organizations for providing facilities for a solemnization of a particular marriage. The State should not force religious organizations to perform or make available facilities if the performance of those marriages is contrary to their religious beliefs. Consider the wording of other states and the protections offered to their religious organizations.
- *"(a)(1) The religious facility is regularly used by the religious organization for its religious purposes;"*
  - Please consider how this will affect religious schools and educational institutions. If a school teaches certain religious values, does that constitute regular use for its religious purposes? How will this apply to a school gym that is requested to host a marriage they oppose?
- *"(a)(2) For solemnization of marriages pursuant to this chapter, the religious organization restricts use of the religious facility to its members; and"*
  - This item specifically discriminates against interfaith marriages. Couples with varying religious ideals will be forced to become members of one congregation in order to have this religious exemption. The State will be impairing the religious freedoms of interfaith couples.
- *"(a)(3) The religious organization does not operate the religious facility as a for-profit business."*
  - The State should not force religious organizations operating for-profit businesses to act against their religious beliefs. This will have impact statewide to many small churches that rely on for-profit ventures for sustainment. They already have to abide by Excise

Tax Law for their for-profit ventures. They should be allowed exemption to perform their business without the state imposition on their religious beliefs.

- *"(b) A religious organization that refuses to make a religious facility available for solemnization of a marriage under subsection (a) shall not be subject to any fine, penalty, injunction, administrative proceeding, or civil liability for the refusal."*
    - Consider revising with subsection (a) as follows: ***"A religious organization shall not be required to make a religious facility owned or leased by the religious organization available for solemnization of a particular marriage; A religious organization that refuses to make a religious facility available for solemnization of a marriage shall not be subject to any fine, penalty, injunction, administrative proceeding, or civil liability for the refusal."***
- *"(c) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to exempt the owner or operator of any religious facility from the requirements of chapter 489 if the religious facility is a place of public accommodation as defined in section 489-2."*
    - The definition of "place of public accommodations" is defined as *"a business, accommodation, refreshment, entertainment, recreation, or transportation facility of any kind whose goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations are extended, offered, sold, or otherwise made available to the general public as customers, clients, or visitors."*
    - This essentially provides no protection to religious institutions. If a visitor walks into to a church opposed to same-sex marriage and asks to use the bathroom, does this classify the religious facility as a "place of public accommodation?" If a church allows community basketball games but is opposed to same-sex marriage, they will face civil liability for refusal to allow such marriages at their facility. If the intent of the legislature is to have all churches opposed to same-sex marriage close their doors and take down "public welcome" signs, the end result is religious oppression by the law or threat of legal action. The State needs to separate itself from the regulation of religious organizations.
    - The legislature should consider striking the requirement for public accommodations if contrary to religious belief. The State of New York states: **"a religious corporation incorporated under the education law or the religious corporations laws shall be deemed to be in its nature distinctly private and therefore, shall not be required to provide accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges related to the solemnization or celebration of a marriage."** The State of Hawaii can make the same declaration to provide religious exemption for these organizations.

§572C-2 Findings.

- Do not agree with the deletion of *"The legislature finds that the people of Hawaii choose to preserve the tradition of marriage as a unique social institution based upon the committed union of one man and one woman."*
    - Hawaii, as a State, voted on the definition of marriage. This should not be struck from the public record. Additional discussion on the Supreme Court ruling and subsequent legislation should also be added.
- Do not agree with the deletion of *"marriage should be subject to restrictions such as prohibiting respective parties to a valid marriage contract from standing in relation to each other, i.e., brother and sister of the half as well as to the whole blood, uncle and niece, aunt and nephew."*

- The remaining wording only provides cursory mention of prohibited legal restrictions without definition. The example of the widowed mother and unmarried son leads one to believe that this marriage would be acceptable under the Marriage Equality Act. This would allow brothers, sisters, and other close relatives to intermarry leading one to question applicability of incest laws.

As a member of my faith, I am opposed to the redefinition of marriage. As a citizen, I understand that the civil liberties of the same-sex community require addressing. Please consider the above revisions and concerns. I am gravely concerned that, in trying to provide equal protection for same-sex couples, the pendulum will swing too far and impinge on the "separation of church and state." Many in the community are concerned with what this means for sex education in schools, activists testing public tolerance of same-sex behavior and enticing individuals/organizations into civil lawsuits.

When you look at the atmosphere in Massachusetts, there is increasing intolerance of any viewpoint in favor of traditional marriage. Churches and religious organizations are being targeted for their beliefs that homosexuality is immoral. If this bill is not amended, it will provide opportunities for special rights groups to unjustly target religious groups.

Please revise **§572-F** and **§572-G** to provide adequate religious exemption, as other states have also found it necessary. In the State of New York, "**a religious corporation incorporated under the education law or the religious corporations laws shall be deemed to be in its nature distinctly private and therefore, shall not be required to provide accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges related to the solemnization or celebration of a marriage.**" If agreement on this cannot be reached, an amendment to HRS 489-2 should be made to the effect that: "Public accommodations do not include a religious or nonprofit fraternal or social association or corporation." In reading the Americans with Disabilities Act Title III Technical Assistance Manual, religious exemption "covers all of the activities of a religious entity, whether religious or secular." The examples provided also allowed exemptions for preschools operated by religious entities.

At the end of the day, this is about equality, both Equal Protection and Free Exercise. In providing equality for same-sex couples, we need to be wary about creating new inequalities against the free exercise of religion. SB1, as currently written, will prohibit the free exercise rights guaranteed by Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

Abraham K. Nihipali
Hanapepe, HI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: thumbtied@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:38:18 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Erin Haynes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: To: Chair Senator Clayton Hee Vice Chair Senator Maile Shimabukuro And Members of the Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee RE: In OPPOSITION to SB1 I am in opposition to SB1 because this bill would restrict the religious freedom of the people of Hawaii. If enacted, the First Amendment constitutional rights of our citizens WILL be violated. I feel that the ramifications of the passage of this bill have not been adequately reviewed, reflected on, or considered. Many do not realize that passage of this bill will mean that eventually people will no longer have the freedom to believe what they want without suffering legal consequences. There are numerous such cases in other states and countries. While the intent of the bill may be to ensure equality, in fact, it will ensure equality for one group. For many others it will be an infringement upon basic constitutional rights to freedom of religion and speech. Why should such a controversial bill that has the potential to radically change the fabric of our society and culture be rushed through in a Special Session? Both sides should be honored and respected, and adequate time should be given to truly enact a bill that ensures Equal Rights. I urge you to consider my testimony, and to vote “NO” on SB1. Respectfully yours, Erin Haynes

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Same-Sex Marriage: Not in the Best Interest of Children
(May / June 2009 issue of "The Therapist," a publication of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists—CAMFT)

By Trayce Hansen, Ph.D.
www.drtraycehansen.com

As mental health professionals, it's our ethical and moral obligation to support policies that are in the best interest of those we serve, particularly those who are most vulnerable—namely, children. Same-sex marriage may be in the best interest of adult homosexuals who yearn for social and legal recognition of their unions, but it's not in the best interest of children.

Proponents of same-sex marriage believe love is all children really need. Based on that supposition, they conclude it's just as good for children to be raised by loving parents of the same sex, as by loving parents of the opposite sex. But that basic assumption—and all that flows from it—is naively simplistic and denies the complex nature and core needs of human beings.

According to decades of research, the ideal family structure for children is a two-parent, mother-father family.[1,2,3] That research consistently shows that children raised in such families are more likely to thrive—psychologically, mentally, and physically—than children reared in any other kind of family configuration.

Extensive research also reveals that not only mothers, but also fathers, are critical to the healthy development of children. Swedish researchers reviewed the best longitudinal studies from around the world that assessed the effects of fathers on children's development. Their review spanned 20 years of studies and included over 22,000 children, and found that fathers reduce behavioral problems in boys and psychological problems in girls, enhance cognitive development, and decrease delinquency.[4]

It's clear that children benefit from having both a male and female parent. Recent medical research confirms genetically determined differences between men and women and those fundamental differences help explain why mothers and fathers bring unique characteristics to parenting that can't be replicated by the other sex. Mothers and fathers simply aren't interchangeable. Two women can both be good mothers, but neither can be a good father. One-sex parenting, whether by a single parent or a homosexual couple, deprives children of the full range of parenting offered by dual-sex couples.

Only mother-father families afford children the opportunity to develop relationships with a parent of the same, as well as the opposite sex. Relationships with both sexes early in life make it easier and more comfortable for a child to relate to both sexes later in life. Overall, having a relationship with both a male and female parent increases the likelihood that a child will have successful social and romantic relationships during his or her life.[5]

Moreover, existing research on children reared by homosexuals is not only scientifically flawed and extremely limited [6,7,8] but some of it actually indicates that those children are at increased risk for a variety of negative outcomes.[6] Other studies find that homosexually parented children are more likely to experiment sexually, experience sexual confusion, and engage in homosexual and bisexual behavior themselves.[5,6,9] And for those children who later engage in non-heterosexual behavior, extensive research reveals they are more likely to suffer from psychiatric disorders, abuse alcohol and drugs, [10] attempt suicide, [11] experience domestic violence and sexual assault, [12] and are at increased risk for chronic diseases, AIDS, and shortened life spans.[13,14,15]

It shouldn't be surprising that studies find children reared by homosexuals are more likely to engage in homosexual behavior themselves [16,9,17] since extensive worldwide research reveals homosexuality is primarily environmentally induced. Specifically, social and/or family factors, as well as permissive environments which affirm homosexuality, play major environmental roles in the development of

homosexual behavior.[18,19,20,21] There's no question that human sexuality is fluid and pliant.[22] Consider ancient Greece and Rome—among many early civilizations—where male homosexuality and bisexuality were nearly ubiquitous. That was not so because most of those men were born with a "gay gene," rather because sexuality is malleable and socially influenced.

Same-sex marriage no doubt will increase sexual confusion and sexual experimentation by young people. The implicit and explicit message of same-sex marriage is that all choices are equally acceptable and desirable. So even children from traditional homes—influenced by the all-sexual-options-are-equal message—will grow up thinking it doesn't matter whom one relates to sexually or marries. Holding such a belief will lead some—if not many—young people to consider sexual and marital arrangements they never would have contemplated previously.

It also must be expected that if society permits same-sex marriage, it also will have to allow other types of non-traditional marriage. The legal logic is simple: If prohibiting same-sex marriage is discriminatory, then disallowing polygamous marriage, polyamorous marriage, or any other marital grouping also will be deemed discriminatory. In fact, such legal maneuverings have already begun. The emotional and psychological ramifications of these assorted arrangements on the developing psyches and sexuality of children would be disastrous.

To date, very little research exists that assesses long-term outcomes for homosexually parented children. According to Charlotte Patterson, a self-proclaimed, pro-same-sex-marriage researcher, there are only two longitudinal studies of children raised by lesbians.[23] And no long-term studies of children raised by homosexual men. A professional organization dedicated to the welfare of its patients cannot and should not support drastic change in social policy based on just two, small and non-representative longitudinal studies.

Certainly homosexual couples can be just as loving toward children as heterosexual couples, but children need more than love. They require the distinctive qualities and complementary natures of a male and female parent. The accumulated wisdom of over 5,000 years concludes that the ideal marital and parental configuration is composed of one man and one woman. This time-tested wisdom is now supported by the most advanced, scientifically sound research available.

Importantly, and to their credit, many self-proclaimed pro-same-sex-marriage researchers acknowledge that there is as of yet no definitive evidence as to the impact of homosexual parenting on children. Regardless, some of those advocates support same-sex marriage because they believe it offers a natural laboratory in which to assess the long-term impact on children.[24] That position is unconscionable and indefensible.

Same-sex marriage isn't in the best interest of children. While we may empathize with those homosexuals who long to be married and parent children, we mustn't allow our compassion for them to trump our compassion for children. In a contest between the desires of some homosexuals and the needs of all children, we cannot allow the children to lose.

CAMFT, like all mental health organizations, must base policy decisions on scientific evidence and research findings, not personal belief and political opinion. Most importantly, they must never allow children to be used as guinea pigs in unwise and potentially harmful social experiments.

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Dr. Trayce L. Hansen is a licensed psychologist with a clinical and forensic practice. She received her Ph.D. from the California School of Professional Psychology, San Diego, in 1997. Dr. Hansen's professional experiences are varied although she's particularly interested in the areas of marriage, parenting, male/female differences, and homosexuality. Dr. Hansen has extensively reviewed the literature in these areas and occasionally writes commentaries based on her findings that have been published worldwide.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	boydready@hawaii.rr.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:40:10 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Boyd Ready	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Judiciary Committee: Your bill is misnamed -- it is not an equal right, but an additional right no one ever had before. Everyone has always had an equal right to marry -- that is, to cohabit as man and wife with the possibility of producing offspring. The additional 'right' you are proposing will create legal equality for unions that cannot possibly produce offspring. Future generations is what marriage is about, as well as the biological di-morphism of the human being. By introducing and enforced equality between what is not in fact equal you may have your way but you do not change the facts of life. Congratulating yourself on making the naturally unequal legally equal in all the rights, priveledges, responsibilities, and, you openly admit it -- chance to get Federal benefits -- is misguided. You are creating a grand social mess that our schools and courts and families and, most deplorably, our children, will have to be sorting out for decades. I urge you to vote no on creating these new rights.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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October 27, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

The United States of America, of which Hawai'i is a part of, has always been a democratic government. It is concerting to me that the government running Hawaii is considering passing a law that will not only affect the entire state of Hawai'i but supports the desires of the minority. I have two major concerns regarding the proposed bill #SB1.

My first concern is that the bill will redefine the sanctity of marriage and demoralize society. If the purpose of this bill is to enable gay constitutes to receive benefits, which married couples receive, then give them these benefits and create another law for them along with another terminology besides calling it "marriage". THE RIGHTS OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN GOD AND HIS COMMANDMENTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE HAWAI'I GOVERNMENT AS EQUALLY IMPORTANT AS THE RIGHTS OF THOSE WHO DO NOT. I firmly believe that our society is in rapid decay and it is for reasons such as this. I also firmly believe that calling the union between gay partners a marriage will enhance the detriment of our society in Hawaii. As an educator for the past thirteen years, I teach the whole child, which includes not only academics, but ethics and morals as well. I have been an active voter since the age of eighteen and I ask that you enable the voice of the people and **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE** on this issue.

My second concern is the right of religious freedom. The constitution of the United States of America, of which Hawaii is a part of, supports religious freedom. Courageous people seeking this very freedom created our country's heritage. I ask that this proposed law be rewritten so that **sufficient protections are put in place protecting the religious rights of our people.** I ask that religious organizations and businesses be exempted from this proposed law. For a religious organization to be expected to marry a gay couple would be against the very principles of that organization; it would infringe upon their beliefs. Such an organization could not morally obey the laws of the land when doing so will hold such an organization in contempt of GOD!

If you as the Leaders of our "Hawaiian Paradise" should elect to take this decision upon your shoulders, I ask that you do not infringe upon the rights of others in order to make some happy.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
Sonya M. Carvalho
2644 Ainaola Drive
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

October 27, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am a citizen of the United States, born and raised in Hilo, Hawaii. I've lived here my whole life, I may only be 21 but I'm using my right to speak up. I am taking this opportunity to voice my concerns about the same-sex marriage bill that is being proposed at this time. I'm pleading with you to not only consider those who want this bill passed, but to consider what it will do if this bill gets passed.

We all have a right to have our freedom. But if this bill gets passed you'll take away our freedom. Since when does one groups' beliefs come more important than someone else's. To force someone to go against what they don't believe. Is that freedom? No, it is not. It's just like we pushing our values that a marriage should be between a man and a woman, but we don't push that fact on those who believe otherwise. That's because everyone has their agency, it's their right to choose. But if this bill gets passed you take away our right to choose. You take away the right of those who believe in the sanctity of marriage which is God's definition of marriage, and the right to religious freedom.

We as members of a religious organization, are taught to respect others beliefs. By enforcing someone to act against their religious beliefs is not respecting us as individuals. As a kid when you were forced to do something you did not want to do what happened? Usually one will rebel, because they feel trapped. I know those who are pushing for this bill to take place, are only concerned about their feelings; but where's the dignity and respect for those who don't believe the same way. You are in this political position because we voted for you. If you vote to pass this bill you will be taking away our freedom, and consequently how easy would be to take away more freedoms. Our forefathers believed in religious freedom. If you vote to pass this bill, you will be going against our constitution, which made us the country we are. History will repeat itself, and we will not be the nation we were meant to be.

Please don't let this bill pass, not because you agree or disagree in same-sex marriage, but because you respect everyone's freedom; including yours.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
Tari A. Carvalho
2644 Ainaola Drive
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Carol Parker
PO Box 25714
Honolulu, HI 96825

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

1. It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion, and ultimately also denies individual citizens the right of free speech and lawful assembly.
2. It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively.
3. It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion and ultimately also denies individual citizens the right of free speech and lawful assembly.
4. It re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage without regard to the impact and consequences on Hawaii, society, the community, and individual rights.
5. It fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members from lawsuits.
6. It is fast-tracked through a process that does not offer Neighbor Island individuals the opportunity to present testimony in person.
7. It appears to be the act of the State of Hawaii Executive Branch and the Legislature to put the 'wants' of non-residents of Hawaii over the needs and will of residents of the people of Hawaii and the registered voters of Hawaii.
8. It appears to be the act of a legislative body attempting to ignore the firmly expressed will of registered Hawaii voters and bypass the voters of Hawaii who have already voted on this issue.
9. It appears to be the first act of a legislative body being forced to pass legislation by an Executive Branch attempting to show its first step in showing its power over the people of Hawaii.
10. It excludes legislative representatives of some registered voters of Hawaii the process and opportunity to vote on the legislation. This violates the US Constitution guaranteed right for the people to be represented in the legislation process.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Carol Parker
Registered Hawaii Voter

Charmaine Leilani Owen
P.O. Box 142
Hawi, HI 96719
(808) 987-9629
leilaniohawaii@yahoo.com

October 18, 2013

House Speaker Representative Joseph M. Souki
House District 8
Hawaii State Capitol
Fax: 808-586-6101
repsouki@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Aloha,

My name is Charmaine Leilani Owen. This is my home and where my family and extended family reside. We are voters and are grateful for this privilege.

'Marriage between a man and a woman is the bedrock of society' and I am committed to strengthening traditional marriage between a man and a woman. I am opposed to same-sex marriage legalization (Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013) and to all the negative ramifications that come with it.

I remember my vote and the votes of residents of Hawaii deciding years ago to keep traditional marriage between a man and a woman. It is disempowering for a nation, a state, and any governing body to over rule such personal and collective power.

What kind of leadership would usurp such a fundamental right and collective choice that was decided upon? The adverse consequences of doing so has ramifications all its own. The consequences are grave.

Recently, in regards to Supreme Court marriage rulings, not only did California also vote and confirm that marriage is between a man and a woman, but now there is more concern. Many wonder if there is something fundamentally wrong when our government will not defend or protect a popular vote that reflects the views of a majority of their citizens. The effect of the ruling raises further complex issues, including but not limited to jurisdictional. There are real issues that need to be resolved as well as fundamental rights that not only same-sex marriage argue, but that those who are against same-sex marriage argue, who happen to be the majority here in Hawaii.

Please refrain from passing anything that would deny our rights, including religious freedoms. Study the issues at hand and do not be so quick to make a law before solving further issues that arise from such an act as the marriage equality act.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
IN OPPOSITION OF SB1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

DATE OF HEARING: MON., OCTOBER 28, 2013
TIME: 10:30 A.M.
PLACE: AUDITORIUM, STATE CAPITOL

Dear Senator Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill One. This legislation does not cover equality. The language appears to be vague and would harm religious organizations, small business owners, government employees, and judges whose religious beliefs are not that of the gay/lesbian community. Passage of this bill will affect the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman.

I believe that SB1 does not represent the best interests of the majority of the people of Hawaii. Please do not allow this type of legislation to be passed.

Charlotte Y. Hee

Testimony Special Legislative hearing, same sex marriage. HB 1 and or SB 1.

Opposition, October 27th, 2013

From Tula and Cam Cavasso, Retired State Representative.

Dear Committee Chairmen and members,

We address our opposition to and ask you to vote against this bill for two key reasons.

Number one this bill attacks the freedom of faith, the freedom of religion, a fundamental right so important to our nations value system that it was specifically covered in our Bill of Rights by the very First Amendment to our US Constitution before ratification. "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, neither shall it deny the free exercise thereof". This bill has the effectual result of denying the free exercise of faith or religion by individuals, organizations, businesses, schools, churches, synagogues, or places of worship.

Number two, this bill as written has the secondary effect of reverse discrimination against those who by faith and religious written doctrine believe in specific sexual moral values and behavior respecting their families, parenting, relationships, home building, education, and daily practices in every aspect of life. This bill effectively grants or places into law a preferred "Civil Rights" status based on a moral or chosen behavior lifestyle to the exclusion of other moral lifestyles beliefs and values, far beyond the immutable characteristics of regular civil rights protections such as for race, gender or national origin which are based not on action or morality, but on birth.

Commented [CC1]:

Proponents of this bill claim the religious exclusion or exemptions will protect people of faith and religious values, practices and churches. This claim of protection is untrue.

The so called religious protection clauses neither effectively protects religious free speech and lifestyle nor does it protect their freedom of assembly in religious social settings or churches.

This bill as proposed will effectively serve to quell free speech and assembly based on the moral values relating to sexuality, marriage, family and every other aspect of our Hawaii community. The chairman of the Hawaii Civil Rights commission has already publicly expressed sentiments making it clear that if this bill is passed into law that he will use it drag into court by lawsuit, individuals, business people and leaders of assemblies, pitting them against the financial and intimidating power of the State. In other words it is apparent that this bill, if passed, will be used to quell free religious speech.

The subject, wording and ramifications of this bill need much greater study both of impact and long term ramifications including its unintended consequence in all aspects of our community.

We have addressed only two of many reasons to recommit this bill for reconsideration in the Regular Session beginning in January for the much more detailed study of the current and future consequences it deserves. Please do not rush this highly emotional and complicated subject to half considered action.

We respectfully ask you to you hold this bill.

Kari L. Taylor
3724 Mariposa Drive
Honolulu, HI 96816

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am **OPPOSED** to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

There are many aspects of this bill that extremely concern me.

1) It re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage.
2) It is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively.
3) It fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits.
4) It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members from lawsuits.
5) It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.
6) It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits.
7) It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.

I strongly urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Kari L. Taylor

Kari L. Taylor
Hawaii Voter

October 27, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

Redefining marriage not only affects the estimated 5% of Hawai'i residents who identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian, but will change society forever for the other 95% of Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE**!

If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that **sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon**. Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

I want to keep my religious freedoms don't you?

Sincerely,

Rodney Diamond

HCR 3 Box 14073
Keaau, HI 96749

October 27, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

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For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

I want to keep my religious freedoms don't you?

Sincerely,

Lorrie Diamond

Lorrie Diamond

HCR 3 Box 14073
Keaau, HI 96749

From: Ana Barrientos-Perez
858 6th ave
Honolulu hi, 96816
(808) 206-5061

Senator	S District 10
Ihara , Les Jr. (D)	Kaimuki, Kapahulu,
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 220	Palolo, Maunalani
Phone 808-586-6250	Heights, St. Louis
Fax 808-586-6251	Heights, Moʻiliʻili,
E-Mail: senihara@capitol.hawaii.g	Ala Wai

Subject: Opposition SB1, JDL Testimony at The Capitol

Dear Honorable Les Ihara and Members of the committee Maile Shimabukuro,
Mike Grabbard, Brickwood Galuteria, MalamaSolomon, Sam Slom

As a constituent of District **10**, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to SB1 The Marriage equality Act. As a voter in the district you represent, I feel that it is important for you to know how I feel about this as part of your decision making process.

I believe that the public should vote on the issue of Same Sex Marriage on just as we did back in 1998, when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve marriage between a man and a woman. The needs to be informed of any legal issues that will affect our lives and we need to be given time to discuss these issues, not the way Governor Abercrombie is acting now.

The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people you have been elected to represent. This Special Session does not warrant enough time to address detrimental consequences to family unity, confusion to promiscuity to young adolescents, a born nature, which in the 21 century there is no DNA, blood test this is an inherited or biological born behavior not proven ever. This SB1 must put in the ballot for citizens to make a decision.

In closing, I greatly appreciate your representation of the constituents of District # **10**. Again, I am asserting my opposition to same sex marriage, request be given enough time to be to discuss issues so it could be given on the ballot for the people to vote. I am praying that God will continue to lead you in all of your decision-making and that HE will continue to encourage you in all that you do.

God Bless,

Ana Barrientos-Perez.

Valerie Meli
3946 Pahoa Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it first denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion.

Also, it extends parentage rights that would transfer Native Hawaiian ethnicity to non-Native Hawaiian individuals.

I cannot believe that I have to write this letter when I was already voted against this in 1998. The people of Hawaii already made it clear that marriage is defined between a man and a woman.

I humbly ask you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Valerie Meli
Hawaii Voter

Michael S Meli
3946 Pahoa Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
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Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it re-defines the most core institution of society, marriage. In 1998, I took part if fighting hard for what I believe in and teach to my own children. The people of Hawaii too made a bold statement that marriage is between a man and woman.

This bill fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits.

I cannot comprehend how this special session comes about when there are so many problems that will occur if it passes.

I ask you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Meli

Claire Manutai
3946 Pahoa Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
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This bill fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits.

I cannot comprehend how this special session comes about when there are so many problems that will occur if it passes.

It will introduce new educational curriculum for K-12 grades that will present same sex marriages and relationships to school children and youth. As a DOE teacher, this goes against all that I stand for and believe.

I ask you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Claire Manutai

My name is **Daniel Ravia** and I live in the town of Laie, Hawaii. I am testifying on Senate Bill 1. In regards to this bill, I would like to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 1.

I am opposed to Senate Bill 1 because of the inadequate protections it establishes for religious institutions. As a very devout member of my religion, I feel very passionately that our buildings, meetinghouses, and places of worship be used only for purposes that directly align with our religious beliefs. I feel that is is unconstitutional and unlawful to force any religious group to serve, accommodate, or celebrate those marriages that go against what their church teaches and practices. Senate Bill 1 would take away my rights to freedom of religion as our founding fathers intended them to be.

Again, I would like to reiterate that I am AGAINST Senate Bill one, and that I firmly oppose its passing into state legislature.

Thank you,

Daniel Ravia

Cherie Kapololu
1572 Monte St.
Honolulu, HI 96819
ckapololu@gmail.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear Senator Donna Mercado Kim:

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of our District. I truly appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. As my Senator, I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote “no” to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment.
I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions. However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take the time necessary to revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,

Cherie Kapololu

October 25, 2013
Ju Frigillana
Pastor of Inspire Church
94-406 Keaoopua St #48A
Mililani, Hi 96789

Re: OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this. Knowing that my voice is being heard in this very important matter brings me reassurance, but at the same time the people's voice in Hawaii that are not heard due to this special session is very disturbing.

I believe that the people should be allowed to decide on this issue of marriage and I am pleading with you to support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

Please give this bill the due process it needs in a regular session where it can probperly be vetted and examined as all other bills. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely yours,

Ju Frigillana

MIlilani, Hi 96789

Sincerely yours,

Written Testimony Regarding SB 1
Relating to Equal Rights

To: The Committee on Judiciary and Labor

My name is Stuart Shigemitsu. In 2009, I inquired of then Senator Russell Kokubun what his stance was regarding HB 444 relating to civil unions. I have copied our email correspondence below to demonstrate that my concerns voiced over four years have now been realized as the Hawaii Legislature stands on the cusp of legalizing same sex marriage in our State. Despite Senator Kokubun's assurance that the legalization of civil unions would not change "the definition or character of traditional marriage" the passage of time has invalidated Senator Kokobun's claim. Governor Abercrombie signed civil unions into law in 2011 and now with this special session of the State Legislature, the definition or character of traditional marriage is most definitely in jeopardy.

Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 2:06:01 PM
Subject: HB 444
Mahalo for taking the time to submit your comments regarding House Bill 444, the pending civil union bill that is now under consideration in the State Legislature. Hawai`i has a history of recognizing personal and cultural differences. This is not about gay rights; it is about civil rights, and our community's respect for the lives and beliefs of others. Civil unions convey those rights and duties without changing the definition or character of traditional marriage. It is my understanding that civil unions are not marriage. They will extend a basic social and legal right to a new group of individuals without altering or diminishing what we now think of as marriage. It has been a guiding principle of our community to respect individuals' differences. In matters of religion, culture and lifestyle, Hawai`i has stood as one of the most welcoming and tolerant places in our nation. I will keep an open mind with respect to any and all input. I truly appreciate your efforts to communicate your thoughts and opinions on this critical issue.

Mahalo,
Senator Russell Kokubun

Sent: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 11:32:41 PM
Subject: Re: HB 444
To Sen. Russell Kokubun
Feb 24, 2009
Dear Senator Kokubun,
I have not written any correspondence to a politician in over 15 years as I feel that politicians in general tend to disregard public input, especially pertaining to those issues on which they have already taken a firm stand. Nonetheless, I find it necessary to write to you due to my concern regarding HB 444. As you well know in 1998, by almost a 70% majority, the people of Hawaii (myself included) voted to amend the State's constitution allowing the legislature to ban same-sex marriages in Hawaii. I see this piece of legislation as an attempt to circumvent the will of the people & legislatively dictate what gay rights proponents could not accomplish 10 years ago. It is disturbing to me that the legislature and in other instances the judiciary, have taken it upon themselves to usurp the expressed will of the people.
I do not have any ill-will against gay people, but rather, with all due respect, I take issue with your statement that "civil unions convey those rights and duties without changing the definition or character of traditional marriage." I do not believe that you can separate the two, as the former will always

impact the latter. Case in point, the bellwether State of California. Back in 1999, California enacted a domestic partnership registry which initially allowed only hospital visitation privileges to gay couples but was later expanded to allow many of the same rights as married couples. Later on in 2000, the residents of California voted in favor of Proposition 22 which by statute defined marriage as between a man & a woman. Despite this law, the mayor of San Francisco in 2004, began allowing same-sex marriages in his city which subsequently led to the California Supreme Court striking down Prop. 22. Just last year, the California voters again voiced their opinion on same-sex marriages by voting for Proposition 8 which constitutionally defines marriage as being only between a man & a woman. The subsequent backlash in the gay community was vociferous & widespread, resulting in multiple ongoing lawsuits to undo Prop. 8. My point in documenting the preceding is to simply state that the slippery slope of civil unions leading to marriage between gay couples in Hawaii is a sure one & will become inevitable should HB 444 be approved in the Senate. The history of this debate in California has made it evident that the plea for basic "civil rights" will not satisfy those in the gay community until gay couples are allowed to marry & then I am afraid that the "definition & character" of traditional marriage will be forever altered. I firmly believe in tolerance & respect for all, but not at the expense of traditional marriage. I therefore urge you to act accordingly.
Sincerely,
Stuart Shigemitsu

To senkokubun@capitol.hawaii.gov
Mar 24, 2009
Dear Senator Kokubun:
Since this piece of legislation is still very much alive in the legislature, could you please take the time to respond to my response regarding your position of HB 444? Frankly, I don't know how one can absolutely claim that traditional marriage will in no way be affected as detailed in my response below. I would be interested in hearing your response.
Thank you kindly,
Stuart Shigemitsu

Unfortunately, I received no further response from Senator Kokubun. Fast-forward only a few short years and the citizens of our State now find ourselves in the exact position that I predicted would happen if civil unions were made legal by our chosen political representatives.

A few years ago, sexual orientation used to be referred to as sexual preference. This distinction in terms is significant because the two terms denote significant differences in the manner by which sexuality develops. A preference is something that is chosen, whereas orientation is merely something that defines us. The differences are potentially important regarding how the law applies to those who are gay. If homosexuality does not stem from personal choice but is a biologically-determined characteristic over which we have no choice, then laws should not treat gays and straights differently since homosexuality would be equivalent to one's race, over which we have no control. Conversely, if being gay is indeed the result of choice and not biologically or genetically determined, then granting marriage rights based upon personal choice is inherently problematic. Pertinent questions arise such as who has the authority to define marriage – the citizens or the legislature? If the legal right to marry is granted to gays then should not the right to marry be given to those who practice polygamy as well? After all, we should not discriminate against polygamists should we? If gays are granted the right to marry others of the same sex, is it not logically consistent to also allow others to marry multiple partners, if they so

choose? Where do we draw the line concerning defining marriage and who draws that line? Moral relativism is the real issue here. We are confronted by it and cannot evade the dilemma of the morally slippery slope.

Despite much research, there is no empirical evidence that homosexuality is genetically based. In fact this evidence points to the opposite. Outlined below is a partial summary by Dr. Neil Whitehead of more than 20 years of scientific research into homosexuality. It draws on more than 10,000 scientific papers and publications from all sides of the debate. His findings regarding same-sex attraction versus opposite-sex attraction reveal the following:

Change

The huge amount of change in sexual orientation is one of the clearest evidences that homosexuality is not hard-wired by genes or anything in the biological environment.

Large studies now show that:
For adults:

About half of those with exclusive SSA move towards heterosexuality over a lifetime. Put another way, 3% of the practising heterosexual population (both men and women) claim to have once been either bisexual or homosexual.

These changes are not therapeutically induced, but happen "naturally" in life, some very quickly.

Most changes in sexual orientation are towards exclusive heterosexuality.

Numbers of people who have changed towards exclusive OSA are greater than current numbers of bisexuals and exclusive SSA people combined. In other words, "Ex-gays outnumber actual gays."

Exclusive OSA is 17 times as stable as exclusive SSA for men, and 30 times as stable as exclusive SSA for women. (Women move about more in their sexual orientation than men.)

For adolescents:

Most teenagers will change from SSA. In fact, in the 16 to 17 year age group, 98% will move from homosexuality and bisexuality towards heterosexuality.

16 year olds saying they are SSA or Bi-attracted are 25 times more likely to say they are opposite sex attracted at the age of 17 than those with a heterosexual orientation are likely to identify themselves as bi-sexual or homosexual.

16-year olds who claim they are opposite sex attracted will overwhelmingly remain that way.

Genes

Twin Studies:

These very complex comparisons of identical twins and non-identical twins definitively rule out genetic determinism. Identical twins with identical genes are about 11-14% concordant for SSA. If homosexuality were "genetic," identical co-twins of homosexual men and women would also be homosexual 100% of the time. In classic twin studies the genetic fraction is less than 23% for men and 37% for women, and may be as low as 10%. Twin studies continue to find steadily lower genetic input into homosexuality as methodology improves and samples become larger. Everyone has at least a 10% genetic influence in their behaviour— because without genes there can be no human behaviour of any kind. Twin studies show that individualistic reactions to chance events (in which one identical twin

reacts differently from the other) are by far the strongest contributors to homosexuality. In other words personal individual reactions to random events are a strong factor.

Other

A scan of the whole genome has not found any homosexual genes, unlike the case for schizophrenia (which has still only identified 4 genes linked to 3%of schizophrenia.)

From an understanding of gene structure and func-tion there are no plausible means by which genes could dictate SSA (or other behaviours) in a person.

So far, genetically dictated behaviours of the "one-gene-one-trait" variety have been found only in very simple organisms. Generally, geneticists agree that many genes (from at least five or six to many-hundreds) contribute to any particular human behaviour.

Any genetic influence is believed to be weak and indirect.

No genetically determined human behaviour has yet been found. The most closely genetically-related behaviour yet discovered (mono-amine oxidase deficiency leading to aggression) has shown itself remarkably re-sponsive to counselling.

A genetically dominated SSA caused by a cluster of genes could not suddenly appear and disappear in families, as it does. It would persist through every generation for many generations. It is genetically implausible that many "heterosexual" genes could switch off at the same time.

The human race shares most of its genes—something between 99.7%and 99.9%. That means all ethnic groups will have most of them. This has three implications.

If homosexuality is genetically dictated, homosexual practices will be identical or very similar in all cultures. But the enormous range and diversity of homosexual practice and customs in different cultures (and within cultures), argues against this.

There would be a similar percentage of homosexuality in all cultures. But homosexuality has been unknown in some cultures and mandatory in others.

Changes in homosexual practice and behaviour in different cultures would take place very slowly, over many centuries. But this is not what history shows. (The decline of whole models of homosexuality (the Greek, over a couple of centuries, and the Melanesian, within a century); the relatively sudden (in genetic terms) emergence of the present Western model over a couple of centuries; and abrupt changes of practice within an ethnic group, even over a single generation, are not consistent with anything genetic. Even less so the swiftly changing sexual practices within the current Western model.)

The occurrence of SSA in the population is too frequent to be caused by a faulty pre-natal developmental process, so it is not innate in that sense either. This includes epigenetic processes. If SSA were genetically determined, and led to same-sex contact only it would have bred itself out of the population in only several generations. It would not exist today. The age of first same-sex attraction could be about 10% genetically influenced and opposite sex attraction about 15%. (Remember, everyone has a 10% genetic input into anything they think or do.) First attractions (both SSA and OSA) occur on average at age 10 and are rarely "earliest memories," meaning attraction is mostly socially induced.

According to Dr. Whitehead, "At best genetics is a minor factor." Because identical twins are always genetically identical, homosexuality cannot be genetically dictated. "No-one is born gay," he notes. "The predominant things that create homosexuality in one identical twin and not in the other have to be post-birth factors." Dr. Whitehead believes same-sex attraction (SSA) is caused by "non-shared factors," things happening to one twin but not the other, or a personal response to an event by one of the twins and not the other. The complete summary and further details can be found at: http://www.mygenes.co.nz/summary.htm

Based on the above I think it would be a grievous mistake to redefine the definition of marriage without any empirical evidence to support such an action.

Lastly, allow me to make the argument from the personal standpoint. As parents do you wish and hope that one day your own children will grow up and marry someone else of the same sex? Or, do you wish and hope that your child will marry someone of the opposite sex and perhaps have grandchildren in the future. I submit that most parents would prefer the later outcome for their children. Redefining traditional marriage in our State would certainly affect that outcome as children would then be taught in the public arena that same sex relationships are acceptable since there is no difference between SSA and OSA. The inculcation of the gay lifestyle as being acceptable among our children is already taking place as evidenced most recently in New York where the IFC Center announce that it will admit minors to see the NC-17 rated movie Blue Is The Warmest Color which is a story about lesbianism.

No matter from which angle you view this piece of legislation, it all boils down to a question of morality. Therefore, I urge you to do the right thing and reject SB 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Stuart Shigemitsu

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Submitted by: Barbara O'Nale 92-6048 Kohi St, Kapolei, HI 96707

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposed to this bill because it is circumventing the normal process a bill should go through.

It is my understanding that the legislature did not have the votes to call a special session. The Governor would not have called a special session if this was not a political agenda he wanted to push. The Democrat Party of Hawaii investigative panel has already shown its bias by recommending reprimand for Sen. Gabbbard and for Rep. Har to be censured for introducing a constitutional amendment on traditional marriage. The panel concluded that the party has a First Amendment right of free association to enforce its membership requirements, and that "they violated the membership requirements of the DPH to the extent that sanctions may be applied to them that affect their membership in the organization…. Sen Gabbard was censored in 2009 for violating the platform on equal rights by actively working against a civil-unions bill." (Honolulu Star-Advertiser 26 July 2013) With Free Speech Week occurring just last week, it is a reminder of how appalling it is that activists have been allowed to elevate a party platform at the expense of the Constitutional Amendment of free speech to express an opposing view, especially when affecting representation of constituents. Richard Borreca in his column on 25 October 2013 in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser states, "Legislators say they are all plowing through a deluge of emails and a constant hum of phone calls, mostly from members of the public opposed." If this is true, is political pressure from threat of censorship and standing in the Democrat Party exerting more influence on a legislator's vote than the view of the constituents who elected them? As this could be any contentious issue, a no vote on this bill in special session would show respect for the normal democratic process of passing a bill and give citizens the confidence that elected officials are not succumbing to political pressure from threats by activists instead of representing them. A yes vote validates this circumventing of the process for activists to use in the future to push an agenda that failed during the regular legislative session.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara O'Nale

First of all, I am opposed to this special session on Same-Sex Marriage (to be referred to as SSM). I would like to see this session suspended immediately on the following grounds:

1. There is no legitimate reason for a special session on SSM. A decision on this issue is not mandated by the U.S. Supreme Court nor is there any deadline for such a legislation to be made. It appears that this issue is being rushed and manipulated for political, and possibly personal gain.

2. It is an erroneous step to rush into a decision on an issue that will have such an immense impact and consequence on the future of the islands and its people. This is a decision that will affect the future of our state like no other decision. It will have social, economic, and political impacts that will profoundly affect the future generations of our state, but impacts that I believe will be negative and subversive in nature.

Secondly, it is my firm belief that the issue of SSM should be addressed directly by the people. This issue should be presented before the people as a constitutional amendment on the next election ballot for the following reasons:

1. A constitutional amendment on the next election ballot will allow every voice to be heard fairly.

2. The constitutional amendment that allows the legislature to decide on the issue of marriage is over 10 years old. Keep in mind that a census is taken every 10 years to account for changes in district representation. As population shifts over time, so do attitudes and beliefs on issues. It is time for the people to be heard from again.

If this special session should proceed on this issue, please vote AGAINST this bill to legalize SSM and let the people decide.

Sincerely,

Spike Tanaka

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I strongly oppose Bill SB1. Why?

(1) It has serious violations of religious rights. The governor's bill was hastily written, and he has already amended it once. That is witness enough it needs more discussion and refining, which is the responsibility of the legislature.

(2) It violates many federal and state granted constitutional rights. I agree that everyone should be treated equally under the law. However, the Governor and AG's Marriage Equality Bill violates religious First Amendment rights to a clear majority of the people of the state of Hawaii. It clearly violates Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

(3) The granted exceptions and exemptions for religious groups are too weak and too restrictive. All religions that define marriage as the union of a male and a female, must be exempted permanently and forever from having to perform a civil union. (This freedom is constitutionally guaranteed under our First Amendment rights.) "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." If our exercise (which it is) is to only recognize marriage as the union of a male and a female, our clergy can never be forced to perform a civil union or to unite two members of the same sex in a formal legally recognized family relationship without violating their First Amendment rights. This is where we must insist that the State of Hawaii CANNOT under any circumstance dictate our religious ceremonies or activities, or enact or create any law that restricts our constitutional freedoms.

Small businesses also must not be forced to support civil unions when it runs against their religious beliefs, even if they offer services to the public. Again, that is a clear First Amendment violation. It frankly would also minimally be a clear violation of the 14th Amendment, Section 1.

Allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage. The legislature appears tp be going against the will of the people the way votes are aligned. Again, I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

It is foolish that the most contentious social issue in our history would be decided in one week. Uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session, and allow the people to vote.

Any bill on this subject should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as is done with all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Any "yes" vote in special session is a NO vote to democracy and to equal rights for everyone!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Colin White
Honolulu, HI 96819

October 27, 2013

Hawaii State Capitol

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Reference: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Monday, October 28, 2013
Time: 10:30 a.m.

Written Testimony

Dear Sir:

I am a parent who is not related to any organization but I am deeply concerned that the passing of this bill will bring future ramifications and divide this island even more than it already is. I find it hard to understand why the legislature would have a special session to rush this bill through.
This is not an equal rights issue, just disguised as one. Many of us believed that when the civil union bill was passed that the issue of spousal rights was addressed. I sat in the hearing and heard testimony after testimony that they (same sex couples) did want marriage, so to speak, but the rights that went with marriage and the Civil Union Bill was passed.
My concern is that if this bill is passed that it will be mandated that homosexuality be taught at all grade levels starting from kindergarten. I do not want Hawaii to mirror Massachusetts where a father can be arrested and taken away in handcuffs simply because he wanted to exercise his parental right not to have his child taught that which he does not believe to be right.
No one can say that same sex couples are denied the right to vote, the right to enter into a restaurant of their choice, the right to rent a home or any of that.
The people of Hawaii are not without prejudice, but dare I say we are far more tolerant than that of our mainland counterparts.
We are logistically isolated and therefore have learned to live with one another for the most part in harmony.
Why are we allowing special interest groups from the outside to influence our island traditions and alter our Hawaiian lifestyle?
I humbly ask that those who were placed in office to hear the voice of the people, LISTEN!

The passing of this bill will deeply divide the islands and your constituents.

Respectfully,
Jade Richardson

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: cjwahine1@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:08:59 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Christie Jennings	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I believe in the sanctity of marriage solely between a man and a woman. I do not support same sex marriage. By not supporting this bill, I am supporting religious freedom and equality. Mahalo.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am strong oppose to Senate Bill 1 and I feel that the religious exemptions are not adequate to protect individuals, regligious organizations, and their affiliates. While I believed in equal rights, there is nothing equal about this bill. Same sex couples already receive all of their state benefits through the Civil Union Law and have access to their federal benefits through the recent Supreme Court ruling. Meanwhile, this bill will negatively impact indviduals, religious organizations and their affiliates. Just because the public accommadation section was deleted from the final verison of the bill, it does not mean that religious organizations and their affiliates are not subject to the public accommadations law. An entire state department does not just disappear overnight. Hawaii Civil Rights Commission will still enforce the public accommdations laws and with no protection written into our current bills, many religious organizations and their affiliates will be left vulnerable.Washington, a very libral state, has explicitly stated in their laws that even if a religious organization is considered to be a public accommadation, they still cannot be sued. In addition, this bill violates our First Amendment rights, the freedom of regligion. As a basic constitutional right, everyone should have the right to believe and practice what they believe in. They should not be forced to participate in anything goes against their religious beliefs. Our society is a very litigious society and this bill does not provide sufficient religious protections.

I also do not support this bill and do not believe that we should have a special session for several different reasons. The govenor should not be calling a special session for a bill that did not receive a single hearing during regular session. This bill was ignored during regular session but now we are having a special session that will cost tax payers thousand of dollars?! The govenor should also not have been conrtibuting to the writing bills because it is outside of his branch of government. The legislative branch writes and passes bills, the executive branch enforces laws, and the judicary branch interprets laws. The special session is limited to the least amount of days to hear the least amount of people.There will be no hearings held on the neighbor islands even though this bill will affect them too. Testimonies will be limited to two minutes per a person. Lastly, the bill wasn't released until five days before the special session starts. An entire section on religious exemptions that was completed replaced, leaving the public less than a week to analyze the bill.

This bill will affect so many individuals, religious organizations and their affilitates, businesses, non profits, education, and so forth. ONE WEEK ISTOO SHORT to even begin to understand and anaylyze the bill. feel like the legislators are shoving this bill through the special session without any regard for the people that voted them into office. This bill does not represent the will o the people and will negatively impact Hawaii.

Again, I am in strong opposition to SB 1 and urge you to vote NO to this bill..

Annora Ng

Kivette Akagi
91-1032 Ama'ama Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because
It denies individual citizens their First Amendment right of freedom of religion. It denies business owners their First Amendment right of freedom of religion. It fails to protect bishops, priests and other clergy members from lawsuits. It fails to protect churches, religious groups and temples from lawsuits. It fails to protect church-affiliated organizations (universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, housing agencies, etc.) from lawsuits. The bill extends parentage rights that would transfer Native Hawaiian ethnicity to non-Native Hawaiian individuals.
It provides that same-sex couples married in the State, but who do not live in Hawaii, the right to return to Hawaii courts for divorce, annulment and separation proceedings. Hawaii taxpayers will be paying for these costs, when our state is already in deficit already.
It will introduce new educational curriculum for K-12 grades that will present same-sex marriages and relationships to school children and youth.
Lastly, it is in utter opposition to the will of Hawaii voters who voted in 1998 to define marriage exclusively between a man and women in the Hawaii constitution. More than 250,000 Hawaii voters expressed their resolute position on the definition of marriage as exclusively between a man and women. The language "reserve marriage" indicates that the people of Hawaii recognize that the institute of marriage deserves and demands special consideration and criteria, one man and one woman exclusively.
I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,
Kivette Akagi
Hawaii Voter

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: kaipoboy@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:14:17 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
garrett	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1, A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

Mark B. Au

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m., Capitol Auditorium

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I strongly oppose the passage of S.B. 1. I am Mark Au, and was born and raised in Hawaii and currently live in Kailua. I am opposed for the following reasons:

1) Legally: Our Hawaii State Supreme Court in the case of Baehr (later Miike) v. Lewin (1993) held that a right to same-sex marriage would not violate the fundamentals principles of liberty and justice. Moreover, in 1998, the "marriage amendment" in the State Constitution, Article 1, Section 23 was ratified by over 70% of the voters giving the legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite couples. This did not empower the legislature to offer marriage to same-sex couples as in this proposed legislation. If so, this would require a further amendment to the marriage amendment, i.e. let the people vote and decide through in another referendum.

2) Violates the rights of parents to educate their children: In areas where same-sex marriage laws have passed, Massachusetts, and Ontario, Canada, the courts have dismissed lawsuits of those parents opposed to having their children forced to be taught that the teaching of homosexuality relationships are identical to heterosexual ones and part of human sexuality. The courts have even prohibited parents from "opting out" of these teachings of the normalization of homosexuality with a "take it or leave it' attitude. I am convinced that these same actions will take place in Hawaii if this law is passed.

3) Society's values: This redefines marriage and will have a devasting impact on society for generations. Marriage is the union of a man and woman. I oppose legislation conferring legal status on any other type of sexual relationship. Your role is to help our children have a mother and a father in a child's life. Affirming marriage serves this purpose. If you follow the logic, if marriage is not exclusive to opposite sex couples and includes same-sex couples, and not limited based on the sex of one's partner, then why limit marriage to a couple?

4) Freedom of conscience and religious freedom violated: Religious and persons of conscience who share their views regarding same-sex unions will be threatened to speak out if this law is passed because same-sex unions, and therefore, homosexual behavior and relationships are to be accepted and "normalized" and viewed as the same as traditional marriage. Proponents would apply or pass "hates crimes" legislation to muzzle and prevent priests, pastors, and religious leaders from speaking freely about the prohibition of homosexual lifestyle. Already in Massachusetts, justices of the peace who refused to preside over same-sex marriages due to moral or religious objections were fired. In Canada, those speaking freely against this behavior and relationships have been challenged as "hate crimes". Hawaii would soon follow with this

type of action against persons of faith and conscience. I am convinced, based on past proponent strategies, any proposed religious exemptions in this bill would soon be repealed.

5) Negative impact on our businesses: Businesses who refuse to provide service to a same-sex couple based on religious beliefs and conscience will be sued and taken to court. In Albuquerque, New Mexico a wedding photographer was held liable under the state's anti-discrimination laws for refusing to photograph a same-sex couple commitment ceremony. While New Mexico doesn't have same-sex marriage, the courts are treating homosexuality like race for purposes of non-discrimination. Even same-sex marriage supporters opposed this ruling. If this law is passed, this same situation will occur because of the law.

6) Past results: Results from other States indicate that in most cases, same-sex marriage is not the true intent of advocates. Research shows that not a large number of same-sex couples want to marry. In Hawaii, the Legislature passed laws to provide marriage rights and benefits - including the reciprocal beneficiaries act, followed by domestic partnerships and most recently, civil unions – with advocates promising the public that these laws will satisfy their request for equality and will not lead to same-sex marriage. Same-sex marriage advocates' strategy here and across the country in the past, now and the future is not truly marriage, rather it is about legalizing the approval on homosexuality and imposing it with force throughout the various social and political institutions of a society that would never accept it otherwise.

In conclusion, I urge you to vote no on to SB. 1 because an unjust law isn't a law at all.

Testimony Regarding the Marriage Equality Act

Milton Nodacker and Jean Nodacker of Pahoa, Hawaii, submit the following in testimony on the Marriage Equality Act:

In reviewing the proposed Marriage Equality Act it is evident that the so-called protections for religious organizations and persons are completely inadequate. They were either included as mere "see, we protected your interests" eyewash or drafted with the intent of maximizing litigation and strife over the issue in the state of Hawaii. The proposed legislation should be carefully redrafted and considered, not crammed through in a special session.

The legislature and governor are responding to a very small, but highly vocal and well financed minority attempting to bludgeon the rest of the population into accepting their chosen lifestyle as normal. Enactment of this bill will give these activists a weapon which they will use to attack persons and organizations of religious conviction and destroy lives and small businesses.

An analysis of the bill by seven professors from five US law schools in a letter to Senator Rosalyn H. Baker finds it completely inadequate in protections for religious objection. In addition to protection for religious institution, they recommend the following amendments to protect persons of religious conviction:

(b) Individuals and small businesses protected.
(1) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(2), no individual, sole proprietor, or small business shall be required to
(A) provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage; or
(B) provide benefits to any spouse of an employee; or
(C) provide housing to any married couple
if providing such goods, services, benefits, or housing would cause such individuals or sole proprietors, or owners of such small businesses, to violate their sincerely held religious beliefs.

(2) Paragraph (b)(1) shall not apply if
(A) a party to the marriage is unable to obtain any similar good or services, employment benefits, or housing elsewhere without substantial hardship; or
(B) in the case of an individual who is a government employee or official, if another government employee or official is not promptly available and willing to provide the requested government service without inconvenience or delay; *provided that* no judicial officer authorized to solemnize marriages shall be required to solemnize any marriage if to do so would violate the judicial officer's sincerely held religious beliefs.

(3) A "small business" within the meaning of paragraph (b)(1) is a legal entity other than a natural person
(A) that provides services which are primarily performed by an owner of the business; or
(B) that has five or fewer employees; or
(C) in the case of a legal entity that offers housing for rent, that owns five or fewer units of housing.

(c) No civil cause of action or other penalties.

No refusal to provide services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges protected by this section shall
(1) result in a civil claim or cause of action challenging such refusal; or
(2) result in any action by the State or any of its subdivisions to penalize or withhold benefits from any protected entity or individual, under any laws of this State or its subdivisions, including but not limited to laws regarding employment discrimination, housing, public accommodations, educational institutions, licensing, government contracts or grants, or tax-exempt status.7

* * * * *

Some have expressed concern that the proposed text would permit objections to interracial marriage. Although such objections are likely to be rare, if not non-existent, this concern is readily addressed by a simple proviso that would read: "Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions, this section does not change any provision of law with respect to discrimination on the basis of race." This proposed amendment has several important benefits. First, this text parallels existing protections in Hawaii's nondiscrimination laws for a "religious or denominational institution or organization, or any organization operated for charitable or educational purposes, that is operated, supervised or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization."

The text also significantly mirrors, in part, the express protections provided in the Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington same-sex marriage laws for religious organizations. Many of these laws protect, among other things, the conscientious refusal "to provide services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges . . . related to the solemnization of a marriage."

These seven legal scholars conclude their analysis and recommendations as follows:

Once the bill is passed, those opposed to *any* exceptions for religious communities will give the narrowest possible interpretation to all exemptions. For this reason, the legislature ought to take enough time to write legislation consonant with President Obama's sage counsel: "On an issue as sensitive as this, knowing that Americans hold a wide range of views based on deeply held beliefs, maintaining our nation's commitment to religious freedom is also vital." To clarify the sort of legal protection that should surround religious life in this country, and to foster and address a whole range of developing conflicts, further reflection on refining this legislation is imperative.

The proposed bill in Hawaii to legalize same-sex marriage provides *considerably less* protection than most *every other jurisdiction* where the legislature has considered the issue. Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Minnesota New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington have all enacted same-sex marriage laws, and all provide much more protection for religious liberty than Hawaii's proposed legislation. Each of those states protects religious organizations from being forced to offer "services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges" related to a marriage when doing so would violate their religious beliefs. Although the protections in Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington also fall short in key areas, they still provide far more protection than Hawaii's proposed same sex marriage legislation.

Without adequate safeguards for religious liberty of the sort proposed in this letter, the recognition of same-sex marriage will lead to socially divisive and entirely unnecessary conflicts between the exercise of rightspursuant to the same-sex marriage law and religious liberty. That is a destructive path

> leading to needless loss by both sides. A balanced "middle way" leads to a win-win solution for both sides. The Hawaii State Legislature should avoid either extreme and be the wise peacemaker. [All emphasis in original.]

We urge you to support the recommended amendments to the bill to protect those citizens and organizations who conscientiously object to participation in solemnization of same sex marriages. If these amendments can not be made, we urge you to vote to table the measure until it can be rewritten or to vote for its defeat. We would be happy to provide the entire letter and its recommendations at your request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Milton Nodacker Jean Nodacker

nodacker@gmail.com

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Testimony for SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

I am opposed to SB1 because marriage is one of the most important institutions of society. It is a commitment that demonstrates how one should relate to and respect one another. Where children are born and nurtured and taught values and morals and to also to respect one another. However, if you change the definition of marriage to become something other than the joining of one man and one woman, dire consequences will occur.

Number 1: Marriage will no longer be seen as necessary. In Massachusetts where same sex marriage was first legalized, only 52% of same sex couples even bothered to marry. In the Netherlands, the same sex marriage rate is only 12%. This sends a message that marriage is optional and not the norm, thus fewer people will decide to marry.

Number 2: More children will be born out of wedlock. Most same sex marriage couples do not marry with the intention of having children.

A good, well thought out law brings well being and life to the state but a poorly written, law which is hastily voted on brings oppression to its people and even worse left open for interpretation. In a society which is already having trouble maintaining stability in marriage and family life, this could be disastrous. Allowing same sex marriage would introduce more uncertainty and instability to our state. I thought the state and its laws were supposed to protect families?

Please do not allow SB1 to pass in its present condition but allow the public to vote on this very important decision.

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marriage because Same Sex Marriage violates Chinese Tradition.

American Chinese are very serious about family. We tell the youth that taking care the elderlies in the family is their duty. We finance businesses through family. We borrow money to buy properties through family. We obtain the best education through family.

We know from our hearts that we need love from father and mother, so we apply the same to others. Our children need love from their father and mother as we do.

Same Sex Marriage bill is going to destroy Chinese tradition. We want our local boys and girls know that rearing family biologically is the best. We want to give the best to our future.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Same Sex Marriage bill is going to destroy Chinese tradition. We want our local boys and girls know that rearing family biologically is the best. We want to give the best to our future.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: rm29@uhme.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:24:09 AM
Attachments: Testimony..docx

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Winnie Kuei	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: sdano96744@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:25:27 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Sheri Dano	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I am writing this statement to you to voice my STRONG opposition to the Bill (SB1) being presented to legalize same sexed marriage. This Bill does not do enough to preserve so many of our rights and freedoms. The issue of same sexed marriage is complex. The state has already voted on this issue and had decided that marriage was between a man and a woman. You are distorting the intentions of the vote that was taken by the citizens of this state and abusing your power. If you want to make changes, why not allow the people to vote on an issue that is so divisive. I believe that it goes against all we stand for as a DEMOCRACY. Please vote NO!

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For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marraige because of our heartfelt concern and compassion for the future of our state. I concern over the physical, mental and emotional problems that will beset those who choose the homosexual lifestyle, and I object to what this will do to our community, my children and to my traditional family life. Evidence clearly show that children must be raised in a traditional family environment to thrive and to grow.

In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

Aloha Senators and Representatives,

I am strong oppose to Senate Bill 1 and I feel that the religious exemptions are not adequate to protect individuals, religious organizations, and their affiliates. While I believed in equal rights, there is nothing equal about this bill. Same sex couples already receive all of their state benefits through the Civil Union Law and have access to their federal benefits through the recent Supreme Court ruling. Meanwhile, this bill will negatively impact individuals religious organizations and their affiliates. Just because the public accommodation section was deleted from the final version of the bill, it does not mean that religious organizations and their affiliates are not subject to the public accommodations law. An entire state department does not just disappear overnight. Hawaii Civil Rights Commission will still enforce the public accommodations laws and with no protection written into our current bills, many religious organizations and their affiliates will be left vulnerable.Washington, a very liberal state, has explicitly stated in their laws that even if a religious organization is considered to be a public accommodation they still cannot be sued. In addition, this bill violates our First Amendment rights, the freedom of religion As a basic constitutional right, everyone should have the right to believe and practice what they believe in. They should not be forced to participate in anything goes against their religious beliefs. Our society is a very litigious society and this bill does not provide sufficient religious protections.

I also do not support this bill and do not believe that we should have a special session for several different reasons. The governor should not be calling a special session for a bill that did not receive a single hearing during regular session. This bill was ignored during regular session but now we are having a special session that will cost tax payers thousand of dollars?! The governor should also not have been contribution to the writing bills because it is outside of his branch of government. The legislative branch writes and passes bills, the executive branch enforces laws, and the judiciary branch interprets laws. The special session is limited to the least amount of days to hear the least amount of people.There will be no hearings held on the neighbor islands even though this bill will affect them too. Testimonies will be limited to two minutes per a person. Lastly, the bill wasn't released until five days before the special session starts. An entire section on religious exemptions that was completed replaced, leaving the public less than a week to analyze the bill.

This bill will affect so many individuals, religious organizations and their affiliates, businesses, non profits, education, and so forth. ONE WEEK IS TOO SHORT to even begin to understand and analyze the bill. feel like the legislators are shoving this bill through the special session without any regard for the people that voted them into office. This bill does not represent the will o the people and will negatively impact Hawaii.

Again, I am in strong opposition to SB 1 and urge you to vote NO to this bill..

Annora Ng
Honolulu, HI 96817

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marriage because Same Sex Marriage violates Chinese Tradition.

American Chinese are very serious about family. We tell the youth that taking care the elderlies in the family is their duty. We finance businesses through family. We borrow money to buy properties through family. We obtain the best education through family.

We know from our hearts that we need love from father and mother, so we apply the same to others. Our children need love from their father and mother as we do.

Same Sex Marriage bill is going to destroy Chinese tradition. We want our local boys and girls know that rearing family biologically is the best. We want to give the best to our future.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

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Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

Aloha Kakou, Honorable Senators and Representatives of the Hawaii State Legislature.

I write to you today in **opposition** to **Special Session Measure SB 1** which will allow same-sex marriages in the State of Hawaii.

Abuse of Power
We gave you the power to uphold the right to reserve marriage between one man and one woman. We did not give you the power to change it at your will. I am protesting your decision to change the definition of marriage to include those of the same sex. Civilly, any couple of legal age & status can legally join in union. That is the extent of the law, and that is how it should remain. You should not use the citizens of Hawaii as guinea pigs in the experiment of social engineering by allowing those who prefer sex with the same-sex individuals to marry just so they can receive Federal benefits. As a reminder:

Constitutional Amendment 2 of 1998 amended the Constitution of Hawaii, granting the state legislature the power to prevent same-sex marriage from being conducted or recognized in Hawaii. Amendment 2 was the first constitutional amendment adopted in the United States that specifically targeted same-sex partnerships.[1]

In 1993, the Hawaii State Supreme Court ruled in *Baehr v. Lewin*, 852 P.2d 44 (Haw. 1993), that refusing to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples was discriminatory under that state's constitution.[2] However, the court did not immediately order the state to begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples; rather, it stayed its ruling and ordered the state to justify its position. This ruling galvanized opposition to same-sex marriage in the state and around the country and led to the adoption of Amendment 2.[*citation needed*]

Amendment 2 differed from amendments that followed in other states in that it did not write a ban on same-sex marriage into the state's constitution; rather, it allowed the state legislature to enact such a ban.[3] On November 3, 1998, Hawaii voters approved the amendment by a vote of 69.2–28.6%,[4] and the state legislature exercised its power to ban same-sex marriage.[3]

The amendment reads:[5]

The legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples.

Desire vs. Race - Mutable vs. Immutable

Sexual preference comes the mind, which is stimulated by the senses, and the mind and its desires can - and does - change. It can also be controlled and redirected, whereas race comes from the genes and has nothing to do with the mind; it cannot be controlled or redirected. You can change your mindset; you cannot change your genes. For example, a man may think himself to be Native Hawaiian, but genetically, he's Euro-Asian. No amount of thinking can change that fact. But the same person has choices on how he has sex. He may have very strong desires to have sex with his brother, male best friend, or even his Rottweiler - and is thoroughly convinced that he is a homosexual or otherwise. But in fact, these are desires; they didn't spring from genetics - they spring from the mind: he wants to enjoy sex in a particular way - and those desires are mutable. Your treating sexual preference as the same as being Native Hawaiian is disingenuous, at best. Sexual preference is not a Civil Right, nor is marriage between any consenting adult - and that is the way it should stay.

Same-sex "Marriage" is not a Civi Right
II have attached a file to this article, which, given the time-frame, you may not have the time to read - but if you get around to it, it may help you understand a different aspect in this all-important decision. If the file attachment doesn't work, here is the link: http://www.cpjustice.org/stories/storyReader$1178

Doing What is Pono
So, basing laws upon a small group of people who have sex with the same sex is unintelligent and is unworthy of your position as our elected State leaders. We elected you; we can un-elect you if you misuse our trust. (See: Mufi Hannemann, Linda Lingle) You need to see the big picture here, and not get caught up in the fervent emotion surrounding this issue. Doing what is Pono for all, including those who wish to have sex with the same sex, means you stay out of the "marriage" business, stop the forced social engineering and vote NO on so-called "marriage equality."

Mahalo Nui Loa & Ke Akua Ho'omaika'i Oe,

J. Mitchell
Kailua, HI 96734

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marraige because of our heartfelt concern and compassion for the future of our state. I concern over the physical, mental and emotional problems that will beset those who choose the homosexual lifestyle, and I object to what this will do to our community, my children and to my traditional family life. Evidence clearly show that children must be raised in a traditional family environment to thrive and to grow.

In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: gwahinepio@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:28:16 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
gloria wahinepio	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I request the right to vote on same-sex marriage. Our family who is native to this land for generations upholds the Word of God given to us in the Bible which defines marriage as union between a man and a woman. To lend support to a perversion of God's commandment would poison our children. God declares: "If anyone causes one of these little ones--those who believe in me--to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea." Please respect.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: jrahawaiigirl@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:28:51 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jennifer Au	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Testimony for Matthew Au

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Honorable Representatives,

According to the Ms. Juliet Joslin vs New Zealand case, the United Nation human rights committee, which was formed by 18 Human Right experts, stated clearly that same-sex marriage is NOT civil right.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 23, paragraph 2 stated clearly that marriage is between men and women.

"The right of men and women of marriageable age to marry and to found a family shall be recognized."

However, the people of New Zealand legalized same-sex marriage several months ago. But it passed 3 readings and took almost a year for the entire legalization process. Even though same-sex marriage is not civil right, it is recognized by the people of New Zealand.

We have a different political system in the United States but let me ask these:

1. What is marriage? And who can answer this?

The people!

A 5-day special session is not enough to collect the voice of the people on marriage. Please do not compromise democracy for what you believe "good" reason. If so, as an immigrant from China, I can share with you that this is what we called - dictatorship.

A 'Yes' vote during special session is a 'No' vote to democracy. Please, kill the bill during this special session.

Thank you.

To: JDLTestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:42:46 PM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Date: Oct. 26, 2013

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Date: Oct. 26, 2013

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

As one of your constituents and a registered voter here in Hawaii, I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

A.J. Williams
POB 3709
Lihue, HI 96766

To: Clayton Hee, Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I ask that you vote "No" on Senate bill 1 Relating to Equality during this special session. The Governor would have us believe that supporting his Socio Legal Experiment, Same-Sex Marriage, through a craftily worded administrative change in the law has legal benefits that outweigh the sociological impact of Same-Sex Marriage.

According to recent State of Hawai'i, Department of Health statistics there were 916 Civil Unions consummated since they have been available compared to 32,513 Marriages between a man and a woman during that same period. **Why are you considering a bill in a special session to address just 3% of State licensed unions?**

If you pass this bill, you are forcing your constituents to be a part of the Governor's Socio Legal Experiment. There are other states and a few countries who have decided to try this irreversible experiment. It is irreversible because once you grant someone legal privileges you cannot take those privileges away, like Civil Unions.

What has the experience of these states and countries been?

Massachusetts was the first State to enact Same-Sex Marriage in 2003 what are the consequences both intended and unintended in that State? All public school libraries are expanding their bookshelves with books to normalize the Same-Sex partner behavior and life style.

Canada acknowledged Same-Sex Marriage beginning in 2003. Besides Canadian schools teaching that there are now six genders, what were the intended and unintended consequences?

I urge you to vote "No" on this bill in this Special Session, to allow these questions to be vetted by a broader base of your constituents and understand the long-term effects of this bill. Same-Sex Marriage has not been in place anywhere long enough to assess the generational impact on our children, families and society.

Is this the legacy you want to leave as a legislator?

Thank you,
Alan Yamashiro

Even Massachusetts recognized same-sex marriage as a test . . .
http://www.bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2013/06/26/roots-supreme-court-decision-overturning-doma-are-massachusetts/G31gFFEZbXLvgI0IWnFojO/story.html
Providing a test case for gay marriage was, in retrospect, an essential part of a longer-term strategy.

"As long as there was no marriage then the argument that same-sex marriage wasn't going to cause problems couldn't be refuted," said Barney Frank, who was the first openly gay congressman. "It gave us a basis to use some evidence, and show that the notion that this was going to hurt society was totally baseless."

What are the facts concerning traditional marriage and civil unions?
http://health.hawaii.gov/vitalstatistics
Marriages: 32,513 97%
Civil Unions: 916 3%
Licensed Unions: 33,429 100%
Persons in civil unions account for less than 1/5 of 1% of the total population in Hawaii.

Statewide **January to May 2013** **Preliminary Vital Statistics** **As of July 11, 2013**				
Month of Occurrence	**Births**	**Deaths**	**Marriages**	**Civil Unions**
January	1624	917	1414	36
February	1470	879	1482	40
March	1573	1000	1846	37
April	1468	861	1905	40
May	1589	867	2143	33
Total	7724	4524	8790	186

Last Updated on 07/11/2013 By Office of Health Status Monitoring

Statewide **January to December 2012** **Preliminary Vital Statistics** **As of January 28, 2013**				
Month of Occurrence	**Births**	**Deaths**	**Marriages**	**Civil Unions**
January	1572	892	1369	116
February	1449	902	1745	80
March	1587	911	1856	53
April	1525	914	1906	55
May	1561	916	2315	52
June	1561	847	2144	66
July	1634	811	2018	55
August	1643	853	2102	48
September	1646	845	2119	61
October	1639	827	2217	59
November	1569	784	1655	39
December	1586	815	2277	46
Total	18972	10317	23723	730

Why is this irreversible?
The Federal Supreme court refused to acknowledge the legal standing of California's Proposition 8. "Proposition 8 passed with 52 percent of the vote, halting gay marriage in California. Two gay couples then sued in federal court to overturn the ban. State officials refused to defend the law, and a federal judge allowed its original proponents — again, the people who put it on the ballot — to step in."
http://nbcpolitics.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/06/26/19155307-prop-8-ruling-explained-why-gay-marriage-will-resume-in-california
The Supreme Court ruling on a California law known as Proposition 8 came down to a legal technicality but has huge practical effect — restoring gay marriage in the nation's most populous state.
The court ruled that proponents of Proposition 8, a ban on gay marriage passed by California voters in 2008, did not have the legal right to defend the law in the federal courts.

Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the court, said that the proponents — the people who put Proposition 8 on the ballot — had no "personal stake" in defending it, at least no more than other ordinary citizens of California. At issue was a legal standard known as standing — the standard that keeps just anyone from suing about just anything in the federal courts. To have a case, the standard says, you have to show harm.

How will this Bill be enforced?
The Hawaii Civil Right Commission (HCRC) has been tasked with enforcement. Their legal position is very narrow and in support of Same-Sex Marriage. The HCRC is a State funded branch of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. Any individual may bring a complaint to the HCRC who would consider the complaint and bring suit on behalf of the plaintiff if deemed to be a violation. The defendant would be responsible for their own legal defense.
http://labor.hawaii.gov/hcrc/hcrc-news/hcrc-response-regarding-marriage-equality-religious-organizations-and-facilities-and-public-accommodations-law/

"The Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission supports the proposed marriage equality legislation, as offered in the draft bill posted by Governor Abercrombie, dated 9/9/13, including the proposed HRS §§ 572-F and 572-G religious exemptions for clergy who refuse to solemnize marriages and for religious organization that refuse to make religious facilities available for solemnization of a marriage, if the religious facility is not a place of public accommodation. The HCRC will oppose proposals to create religious exemptions that diminish protections against discrimination under our state public accommodations law.

Example 2
A religious organization owns a facility that it uses for religious purposes. It allows the rental of the facility for weddings for a fee, with a large number of international visitors paying to have their weddings at the site without regard to their religion. The religious organization wonders whether it may decline to rent the facility to same-sex couples for weddings.

Two-part inquiry:
1) Is this a place of public accommodation? Yes, the religious organization offers the use of its facility to the public as customers, clients, or visitors. This is a fact-based, case by case threshold determination.

2) Is there prohibited discrimination? Yes. The religious organization offers its facility for rent to the public for weddings, and does not require the couples getting married in the facility to be members or followers of the religious denomination. Discriminatory denial of use of the facility on the basis of sexual orientation is prohibited under the public accommodations law."

What is the experience in Massachusetts?

Same-sex marriage in Massachusetts began on May 17, 2004, as a result of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) ruling in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health* that it was unconstitutional under the Massachusetts constitution to allow only opposite-sex couples to marry. Massachusetts became the sixth jurisdiction in the world (after the Netherlands, Belgium, Ontario, British Columbia, and Quebec) to legalize same-sex marriage. It was the first U.S. state to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.[1]

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Same-sex_marriage_in_Massachusetts

Background

In 1989, passing legislation first proposed in 1973, Massachusetts prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation in credit, public and private employment, union practices, housing, and public accommodation.[2] In the decade that followed, political debate addressed same-sex relationships through two proxy issues: spousal benefits and parenting rights. Boston's City Council debated health insurance for the same-sex partners of city employees in May 1991[3] and Cambridge provided health benefits to the same-sex partners of its employees the following year.[4] In 1992, Governor Bill Weld issued an executive order providing limited benefits for the same-sex partners of approximately 3,000 management-level state employees, covering only leave for family sickness and bereavement, far short of the health benefits LGBT activists were seeking, but probably the first state-level recognition of same-sex relationships.[5] The Roman Catholic bishops of Massachusetts, replying in *The Pilot*, the newspaper of the Boston Archdiocese, said that Weld's "domestic partners" decision harms the common good "by making a special interest group equal to the family" and confuses "civil rights and family benefits". They asked: "Why should special recognition and assistance be given to friends who happen to share the same house?"[6] Legislation to establish domestic partnerships that would carry spousal benefits was introduced annually in the state legislature without success. Its supporters focused on equal benefits and fairness rather than same-sex relationships themselves.[7] In 1998, when the legislature passed a home rule petition allowing Boston to create such a status, Governor Paul Cellucci vetoed it because it applied to different-sex couples, which he thought undermined marriage, while he offered to sign legislation that applied to same-sex couples only. Boston Mayor Thomas Menino's attempt to extend health care benefits to city employees' domestic partners by executive order instead.[8] was successfully challenged by the Catholic Action League in court.[9]

The state had no explicit regulations with respect to foster care and parenting by gays and lesbians, either singly or in relationships, until, on May 24, 1985, the state Department of Social Services, with the approval of Governor Michael Dukakis, created a rule that foster children be placed in "traditional family settings".[10] In December 1986, a commission that reviewed the foster care system recommended that sexual orientation could not be used to disqualify foster parents.[11] As Dukakis delayed accepting that recommendations, advocates for gay and lesbian rights threatened protests against his presidential campaign.[12] The ban on gay foster parents was enacted into law in the 1989 budget.[13] After a lawsuit challenging the ban was settled out of court, the Dukakis administration withdrew the policy in April 1990.[14] In the 1990s, court decisions further expanded the parenting rights of gays and lesbians. In September 1993, the state's highest court ruled that state law allowed for second-parent adoption by a parent of the

same sex as a biological parent.[15] In July 1999, the same court awarded visitation rights to each of two mothers after their separation.[16]

Same-sex marriage itself was rarely mentioned or address directly during these years. The Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights launched a campaign on behalf of marriage rights for same-sex couples in Massachusetts in 1991. Governor Bill Weld said he would be willing to meet with the group and said he was undecided on the question.[17] When asked about "gay marriage" while running to represent Massachusetts in the U.S. Senate in 1994, Mitt Romney said: "it is not appropriate at this time".[18] In December 1996, considering the possibility of Hawaii legalizing same-sex marriage, Weld said that Massachusetts would recognize the validity of same-sex marriages licensed there. He called the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional.[19]

In neighboring Vermont, activists mounted a legal challenge to that state's denial of marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The lawsuit, *Baker v. Vermont*, was launched on July 22, 1997.[20] The decision on December 20, 1999,[21] launched a four-month debate as the legislature considered how to meet the court's requirement that same-sex couples have access to the rights and privileges of marriage. The end result was the passage of legislation establishing civil unions as an alternative to marriage.[22] Governor Howard Dean signed the legislation on April 26[23] and it took effect on July 1.[24]

Protection of Marriage Amendment

In December 1998, state Representative John H. Rogers, a Democrat, proposed legislation to prevent Massachusetts from granting legal recognition to same-sex marriages established elsewhere: "a purported marriage contracted between persons of the same sex shall be neither valid nor recognized in the Commonwealth."[25] In 1999, the Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance of Massachusetts called it a "hate bill" and a coalition of more than 150 religious leaders formed the Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry to oppose it.[26] Others religious leaders organized in support of the measure.[25] Rogers revised his proposal to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman when he offered it again in 2001, with the additional provision that "Any other relationship shall not be recognized as a marriage, or its legal equivalent, or receive the benefits exclusive to marriage in the Commonwealth." The chair of the Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance of Massachusetts said its prospects for passage were slim but it could serve as a countervailing proposal to efforts at establishing civil unions or providing benefits to same-sex partners of state and local government employees.[27][28] Alongside these legislative maneuvers, GLAD filed a lawsuit in state court challenging the denial of marriage rights to same-sex couples in April 2001.[29]

In July 2001, Massachusetts Citizens for Marriage announced a campaign to amend the state constitution with language similar to Rogers' legislation,[30] called the "Protection of Marriage Amendment".[31] Some signature gatherers complained that opponents of the amendment were harassing them and their opponents charged in turn that some signature gatherers were misrepresenting the petition's content.[32][33] A sufficient number of signatures were certified in December.[34]

The President of the Massachusetts Senate controls the calling of a constitutional convention and its agenda.[35] Senate President Tom Birmingham, an opponent of the amendment, called a joint meeting of the legislature as a constitutional convention for June 19, 2002, and immediately adjourned it for a month saying legislators needed for time to consider the agenda items.[36] When the constitutional convention met again on July 17, the amendment's opponents knew that

proponents had the 50 votes needed for passage. Birmingham, who was presiding, moved for adjournment without considering the amendment, and his motion passed 137 to 53. He called the amendment "wrong-hearted and wrong-headed" and defended the procedure: "Everybody recognizes a vote to adjourn was a vote up or down" on the amendment. "I did gavel the last constitutional convention to a recess because I felt the members needed more time to assess.... Today we saw democracy in action. They may not like it, but they lost two to one." A representative of the Catholic Action League, which supported the amendment, said: "Everything that is wrong with Massachusetts state government was apparent today for all the world to see". One legislator who voted to adjourn said: "For those of us who believe in an open democratic process, this was not a comfortable vote". State Senator Cheryl A. Jacques, an opponent of the amendment and a lesbian, said: "I'm proud to have done anything possible to defeat this hate-filled, discriminatory measure. I'll take a victory on this any way I can get it."[37] Arlene Isaacson of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus later explained it was a critical moment because same-sex marriage had no chance of winning a popular vote at the time: "Not that we would lose by a little, because that wasn't an issue. Rather, it was that we were going to get massacred".[38]

In April 2003, a committee of the legislature held a hearing on the constitutional amendment,[39] but took no action.[40] The four Roman Catholic bishops of Massachusetts, long distracted by the revelations of the sexual abuse of minors by priests, did not address the issue until late May, when they ordered pastors to read and publish a statement to mobilize their parishioners to contact their legislators to urge then to support the constitutional amendment.[41] On June 10, the Court of Appeal for Ontario decided *Halpern v. Canada*, making same-sex marriage immediately legal in that province.[42]

Goodridge v. Department of Public Health[edit]

Main article: Goodridge v. Department of Public Health

Seven same-sex couples represented by Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders initiated a lawsuit in state court, *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*, on April 11, 2001. The plaintiffs argued that denying same-sex couples equal marriage rights was unconstitutional under the state constitution. On May 7, 2002, Suffolk County Superior Court Judge Thomas E. Connolly ruled that the state marriage statute was not gender-neutral, no fundamental right to same-sex marriage existed, and that limiting marriage to male-female couples was rational because "procreation is marriage's central purpose".[43] He concluded his legal analysis by saying that the issue should be handled by the legislature.[1]

The plaintiffs appealed directly to the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC), which heard arguments on March 4, 2003. Mary Bonauto of GLAD argued the case for the plaintiffs. Assistant Attorney General Judith Yogman represented the DPH.[44] On November 18, 2003, the SJC ruled 4 to 3 that the state's ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. The court said: "We declare that barring an individual from the protections, benefits, and obligations of civil marriage solely because that person would marry a person of the same sex violates the Massachusetts Constitution." It provided a definition of marriage that would meet the state constitution's requirements: "We construe civil marriage to mean the voluntary union of two persons as spouses, to the exclusion of all others." The court stayed its ruling for 180 days to allow the state legislature "take such action as it may deem appropriate in light of this opinion."[1]

Governor Mitt Romney said he disagreed with the SJC's decision, but "We obviously have to follow the law as provided by the Supreme Judicial Court, even if we don't agree with it". He said he would work with the legislature to draft a law "consistent" with the ruling. He also backed an amendment to the state constitution to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman while also providing by statute "basic civil rights and appropriate benefits to same-sex couples and other nontraditional relationships."[45] Romney quickly joined legislators in attempting to satisfy the *Goodridge* decision by creating civil unions for same-sex couples.[46] His views were recognized as an attempt to establish his record on a controversial issue while planning to run for the Republican nomination for president.[47] Former Governor Weld took credit for laying the groundwork for the decision: "A lot of the stuff we did foreshadowed the opinion." He said: "It is a thunderbolt, but a thunderbolt correctly heard."[48]

Opponents of gay and lesbian rights opposed any compromise with the SJC. Brian Camenker, head of the Parents Rights Coalition, said: "As Martin Luther King pointed out in his letter from the Birmingham jail, there are some laws that are so unnatural that you have an obligation to openly defy them. The concept of stable, healthy gay relationships is largely a manufacturing of the gay propaganda machine." He called the decision "complete lunacy" and said: "It's beyond shocking. It's madness. It's four judges basically turning society inside out with no input from anybody else."[49]

The public schools in Massachusetts

The homosexual “marriage” onslaught in public schools across the state started soon after the November 2003 court ruling.

2004 - By the following year it was in elementary school curricula – with hostility toward parents who disagreed. Kindergartners in Lexington, Mass. were given copies of a picture book, Who’s in a Family?, telling them that same-sex couples are just another kind of family, just like their own parents. When David Parker – parent of a kindergartner – calmly refused to leave a school meeting unless officials agreed to notify him when discussing homosexuality or transgenderism with his son, the school had him arrested and jailed overnight.

2005 - The next year, second graders at the same school were read a book, King and King, about two men who fall in love and marry each other, ending with a picture of them kissing. When parents Robb and Robin Wirthlin complained, they were told that the school had no obligation to notify them or allow them to opt their child out.

In 2006 a cross-dressing man undergoing a sex-change operation was brought into a third-grade class in Newton to teach the children that there are now “different kinds of families.” School officials told a mother that her complaints to the principal were considered “inappropriate behavior”! She ended up removing her child from the school.

In 2007 a federal judge ruled that because of “gay marriage” in Massachusetts, parents have no rights regarding the teaching of homosexual relationships in schools. The previous year the Parkers and Wirthlins had filed a federal civil rights lawsuit to force the schools to notify parents and allow them to opt out their elementary school children when homosexual-related subjects were taught. The federal judge dismissed the case. The appeals judges later upheld the first judge’s ruling that because same-sex marriage is legal in Massachusetts, the school actually had a duty to normalize homosexual relationships to children; and schools have no obligation to notify parents or let them opt out their children. Acceptance of homosexuality had become a matter of good citizenship!

School libraries have also radically changed. School libraries across the state, from elementary school to high school, now have expanding shelves of books to normalize homosexual behavior and "lifestyle" in the minds of kids, some of them quite explicit and even pornographic. Parents' complaints are ignored or met with hostility.

"Gay days" in schools are considered necessary to fight "intolerance" against same sex relationships. Hundreds of high schools and even middle schools across the state now hold "gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender days." In my own town, a school committee member announced that combating "homophobia" was now a top priority. The schools not only "celebrate" homosexual marriage, but have moved beyond to promote other behaviors such as cross-dressing and transsexuality.

Public Health in Massachusetts

In recent years state funding for HIV/AIDS programs has gone up considerably in Massachusetts, along with the proportion of homosexual-related cases. According to the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health, even though the total number of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses has declined, the proportion caused by male homosexual behavior rose by over 30% from 2000-2009. Thus, for the last several years the state has budgeted $30-$35 million per year for these programs.

A hideously obscene booklet on "gay" practices created by health officials was given out in a high school. Citing "the right to marry" as one of the "important challenges" in a place where "it's a great time to be gay," the Mass. Dept. of Public Health helped the AIDS Action Committee produce The Little Black Book: Queer in the 21st Century. It was given to teens at Brookline High School on April 30, 2005. Among other things, it gives "tips" to boys on how to perform oral sex on other males, masturbate other males, and how to "safely" have someone urinate on you for sexual pleasure. It even included a directory of bars in Boston where young men meet for anonymous sex.

Hospitals in Massachusetts

A major Boston hospital threatened to fire a physician when he objected to its promotion of homosexual behavior. In 2011 a prominent physician at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston – a large Harvard-affiliated hospital – objected to the hospital being involved with "Gay Pride" activities. He also pointed out to his superiors the medical health risks of homosexuality, and said that he and others at the hospital considered homosexual acts to be unnatural and immoral. The hospital then threatened to fire him, telling him that same-sex marriage is "legal" and that his comments constituted "harassment and discrimination." After a "hearing" he was allowed to keep his job, but was told to apologize and to keep his opinions on these matters to himself.

Domestic Violence in Massachusetts

"Gay domestic partner violence" literature (funded by the state) is now distributed at virtually every public homosexual event – including to children at "Youth Pride" events, GLSEN conferences, "gay straight alliance" high school clubs – and especially at the various events and parades during "Gay Pride" week.

Business and Employment in Massachusetts

People can now get fired from their jobs for expressing religious objections to same-sex "marriage." In 2009, a deputy manager at a Brookstone store in Boston was fired from his job for mentioning his belief to another manager who had kept bringing up the subject with him that day. Brookstone's letter of termination (quoted on local TV news) said his comment was "inappropriate" because "in the State of Massachusetts, same-sex marriage is legal."

The wedding industry is required to serve the homosexual community if requested. Wedding photographers, halls, caterers, etc., must accept same-sex marriage events or be held liable for discrimination.

Businesses are often "tested" for tolerance by homosexual activists. Groups of homosexual activists go into restaurants or bars and publicly kiss and fondle each other to test whether the establishment demonstrates sufficient "equality" — now that homosexual marriage is "legal." Then they report "tolerance violators" to authorities, and businesses can be fined and punished. In fact, more and more overt displays of homosexual affection are seen in public places across the state to reinforce "marriage equality."

Legal profession and judicial system in Massachusetts
In 2011 the Governor appointed Barbara Lenk, a "married" lesbian activist, to be a state Supreme Court Justice. She has said that the interpretation of law "evolves and develops" because "minority groups [e.g., homosexuals] see certain things differently based on their own experiences."

Adoption and birth certificates in Massachusetts
In the year after the "gay marriage" ruling, the state's adoption and foster care workers went through a massive indoctrination on "LGBT youth awareness." This included employees and managers at the Mass. Dept. of Social Services. These sessions were run by the radical National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (which once awarded a "Leather Leadership Award" to the owner of a pornographic video company). The emphasis was that those working with children must be trained that homosexuality (and transgenderism) are normal. At one session, the trainer announced that the new motto is, "To tolerate is an assault; you have to accept" this behavior.

Homosexual "married" couples can now demand to be allowed to adopt children – through any agency. In 2006 Catholic Charities decided to abandon handling adoptions rather submit to regulations requiring them to allow homosexuals to adopt the children in their care.

In 2006 the Massachusetts Department of Social Services (DSS) honored two men "married" to each other as their "Parents of the Year." The men had adopted a baby through DSS (against the wishes of the baby's birth parents). According to news reports, the day after that adoption was final, DSS approached the men about adopting a second child.

A court ruled in 2012 that if a child is "born of a same-sex marriage," there is no need for adoption by a non-biological parent. Thus, they would both be the listed as the "parents" on the child's birth certificate, without any formal proceedings necessary. (The other biological parent is not noted on the official birth certificate.)

Government mandates in Massachusetts
In 2004, Governor Mitt Romney ordered Justices of the Peace to perform homosexual marriages when requested or be fired. Several Justices of the Peace immediately decided to resign. That order still stands. Also Town Clerks were forced by the Governor's office to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Marriage licenses and certificates in Massachusetts now have "Party A" and "Party B" instead of "husband" and "wife."

Churches being harassed in Massachusetts

In 2005 hundreds of homosexual activists terrorized the Tremont Temple Baptist Church with makeshift coffins, screaming obscenities through loudspeakers as the national pro-family group Focus on the Family held a religious conference inside. The crowd was so threatening that attendees could not leave the church for the lunch break.

In 2012 someone threatened to burn down a Catholic Church in Acushnet which posted the words "Two men are friends, not spouses" on its outdoor sign. The church immediately received a flood of profane phone calls. At least one person threatened to burn down the church. An activist nailed a sign to church's fence saying, "Spread love not hate." Activists staged a protest outside of the Sunday Mass to intimidate parishioners with a sign saying, "It is legal for two men or women to be spouses." Neither the police nor the District Attorney pursued the threats as a hate crime or other offense.

Politics in Massachusetts

A climate of fear has kept politicians at all levels from disagreeing with or criticizing same-sex marriage since it became "legal." Public officials are afraid of being accused of wanting to "take away rights." Those who support traditional marriage rarely discuss it publicly. And this fear has expanded to suppress any meaningful debate on all homosexual related issues. Additionally, it has brought a feeling of intimidation among pro-family people across the state.

Every Massachusetts state-wide elected official and member of Congress (but one) now publicly supports "gay marriage." The one (apparent) holdout, Republican US Senator Scott Brown, strenuously avoids the issue, saying that it's "settled law" and not worth fighting over.

Rule of Law in Massachusetts

Same-sex "marriage" came to Massachusetts through a radical court's narrow ruling. Because of that, there is an often depressing sense of helplessness that pervades this issue. The marriage statute was never changed, and it has been convincingly argued that the whole process was in violation of the state constitution. The Governor simply went along. And the Legislature acted to block popular votes on two separate constitutional amendments protecting marriage, after sufficient signatures had been gathered for each.

Even the Massachusetts Law Library (online) shows no law legalizing same-sex marriage, only a court opinion. It is a dangerous precedent to allow such sweeping judicial activism to stand as law, enabling everything that has followed from it.

Massachusetts Experience Cited

This goal is seen in Massachusetts, where court-mandated same-sex marriage has opened the door to a radical push for homosexual sex education in the public schools. In Lexington, a man by the name of David Parker requested that his kindergarten son be excused from this homosexual indoctrination. Mr. Parker's basic and reasonable parental request was denied by school officials and when he refused to retract it, he was not only denied, but arrested. He was not requesting a change in the curriculum; he was simply requesting that he be notified so that his six year old son could be absented from such indoctrination. Mr. Parker was not only arrested, but in his civil case the judge stated that Mr. Parker vacated his rights of input on these matters when he chose to send his son to public school.

Canadian Experience

http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/orgs/jlpp/Vol29_No3_Allen.pdf

Because legal regulations on marriage revolve around children, and because same-sex families are fundamentally different from heterosexual ones in this respect, this area poses the greatest risk of legal

misfit. Ironically, evidence for these changes appeared immediately after the introduction of same-sex marriage. For example, in Canada, the second half of Bill C-38, the Canadian federal Civil Marriage Act changing the definition of marriage, contains changes to other pieces of federal legislation removing the definition of natural parent and replacing it with “legal” parent.[39] A legal parent, like one of the partners within a same sex marriage, is not biologically linked to the child. Of course, there is no natural limit to the number of legal parents a child may have, and in a same-sex marriage with one child there are at least three adults involved in some role as parent, whether legal or not. The impact of creating “legal” parents will be felt in our culture for many years, and to the extent it is important for the biological connection between a child and parent to be recognized under the law, such a change can only harm heterosexual marriages.

Unintended or unanticipated outcomes are the result of false theories of human behavior. Proponents claim that adding a small number of same-sex marriages into the net number of marriages benefits homosexuals with no costs to heterosexuals. Laws, if they are to have value, must necessarily come down on one side or another. As Coase pointed out over forty years ago, the question is not how to eliminate harm, but rather who should be allowed to hurt whom such that the greater harm is avoided?[77] Heterosexual marriage rules would be modified because they would be inappropriate for same-sex marriages.

Summary: *Inclusion Costs*: Any type of couple that is included into marriage that requires a *redefinition* of marriage imposes a cost on the existing types of couples. Marriage has been designed for monogamous heterosexual couples. Any change to its institutional structure to accommodate others, must impose costs on the existing marriages. This is the argument of my paper in the *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*.

Historically the definition of parent has been "natural parent" which has meant "biological parent." There can only be two natural parents, and someone who is the biological parent has been given an entire set of rights and responsibilities. These rights and responsibilities have been designed to manage the problems that arise in procreation. Societies have wanted parents to have the proper incentives to remain married and to look after their offspring. It has always been a serious matter to alter these rights and responsibilities.

Well, natural parenthood makes no sense when you introduce same sex marriage, because if there are children one of the spouses is not biologically connected. In jurisdictions that have same sex marriage there is always some type of redefinition to accommodate this. In Canada we created a concept called "legal parent." In British Columbia this has meant a birth certificate asks for the mother's name and the "co-parent's" name. The concept of "father" has been reduced. More significantly, there can be more than two legal parents. There have been a host of legal cases involving divorce where biology has no standing and non-biological but legally-connected parents have been given custody. This is a dramatic shift in the rights of parents, and affects the way parents behave. The impacts of these are yet to be fully seen.

In Canada, the granting gays the right to marry is being used as an excuse for an all out assault on free speech and religious freedom, attacking any with opposing views as bigots engaged in “hate” speech. The shocking depth of this attack is chronicled by Hans C. Clausen, former Editor in Chief of the Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law, in his 66 page report published March 1, 2005. The "privilege of speech" in a "pleasantly authoritarian country": how Canada 's judiciary allowed laws proscribing discourse critical of homosexuality to trump free speech and religious liberty.

After describing Kempling's suspension from his teaching position for publicly expressing his views on homosexuality, Clausen then mentions several other countries that have criminalized remarks critical of homosexuality: New Zealand, South Africa , Netherlands and Denmark . In 2004, the Canadian Parliament passed C-250, sponsored by gay legislator Svend Robinson. The legislation added "sexual orientation" to the list of protected minority categories in Canadian law. Because of this new law, religious leaders are fearful of speaking out against homosexuality and, notes Clausen, "Academicians also seem to be feeling the effect: some university professors are scared that the law will threaten free inquiry in the classroom and in their own publications." In one legal case, a Canadian court justified its suppression of free speech because it claimed that criticism of gays impacted an individual's sense of "self-worth and acceptance." The court also listed "self- fulfillment," "self-autonomy," and "self-development," as reasons to suppress free speech in favor of gays. Clausen points out that this argument is seriously flawed because it favors the

speech rights of one group over another. The court also claimed that criticism of homosexuality damaged the "dignity" of gays.

Attack on Private and Home Schools
In March 7, 2007 - Gay activist groups in Ontario urged the Provincial Ministry of Education to exert more control over private and home schools to fight against the alleged effects of homophobia, objecting to religious schools teaching only their own values. An article in Ottawa's Capital Xtra written by Tony Lovink, who describes himself as a gay Christian school teacher, claimed that "All private schools tend to be at least implicitly homophobic. And I would say all religiously formed independent schools are definitely homophobia.

In British Columbia, gay activists Murray Corren and Peter Corren were granted power over the provincial school curriculum as part of a lawsuit settlement. The settlement also introduced a policy prohibiting parents from removing their children from the classroom when gay-affirmative materials were being taught.

Gay activists have demanded that the Federal Human Rights Commissions shut down three pro-family web sites run by Craig Chandler, a Canadian conservative and talk-radio host.

http://www.cga.ct.gov/2007/JUDdata/Tmy/2007HB-07395-R000326-Rick%20McKinniss-TMY.PDF
In Canada, in the short time since same-sex marriage has been legalized court action has already been forwarded contesting the legal restrictions against polygamy. The rationale for these court actions are a direct extension of the reasoning used to advance same-sex marriage. If marriage is to be afforded to any two persons who seek such a legal union, then on what logical basis is it to be denied to any three-or four-persons who, for whatever reasons, seek such a union. Once marriage has been removed from its basic binary formulation of a man and a woman entering a solemn covenantal union, who is anyone or any legislative body to limit it?

CALIFORNIA PROP 8 RESEARCH: EFFECTS OF GAY MARRIAGE IN CANADA AND MASSACHUSETTS
http://www.dailypaul.com/70673/legal-ramifications-of-gay-marriage
Laws frequently have unforeseen consequences. Such is the case with gay marriage. A study of the effects of the judicial imposition of gay marriage on the people of Canada and Massachusetts provides a clear picture of how it is destroying freedom of speech and threatens our very democratic way of life. Most gays, particularly those who want to marry, are respectful of others views, but the activist Gay Lobby, that is driving the legal battles, has a very different agenda. A study of the world wide consequences of legalization of gay marriage, with particular attention to Canada and Massachusetts, clearly demonstrates that the agenda of the activist Gay Lobby is not granting homosexuals the legal rights associated with marriage but harnessing the power of the state to transform society into their image and suppressing all opposing views. The legal record shows that, given the opportunity they will force their views upon everyone else, including and especially young children. Their objective, as clearly seen in the legal actions taken and the instructional materials being used in the elementary schools, is not tolerance but celebration of homosexuality and gay pride while teaching that opposing views are mean spirited and hateful bigotry. And their attack extends beyond government supported institutions to private and home schools as they seek to deny parents the right to control the moral teaching of their children.

Minnesota testimony
http://www.lifesitenews.com/news/im-gay-and-i-oppose-gay-marriage/

This isn't the first time our society has undefined marriage. No-fault divorce, instituted all across our country, sounded like a good idea at the time. Its unintended consequence was that it changed forever the definition of marriage from a permanent relationship between spouses to a temporary one. Sadly, children became collateral damage in the selfish pursuits of adults.
Same-sex marriage will do the same, depriving children of their right to either a mom or a dad. This is not a small deal. Children are being reduced to chattel-like sources of fulfillment. On one

side, their family tree consists not of ancestors, but of a small army of anonymous surrogates, donors, and attorneys who pinch-hit for the absent gender in genderless marriages. Gays and lesbians demand that they have a “right” to have children to complete their sense of personal fulfillment, and in so doing, are trumping the right that children have to both a mother and a father—a right that same-sex marriage tramples over. Same-sex marriage will undefine marriage and unravel it, and in so doing, it will undefine children. It will ultimately lead to undefining humanity. This is neither “progressive” nor “conservative” legislation. It is “regressive” legislation. Nowhere on any marriage license application in any state are the applicants asked, “Do you love each other?” Yet this is the basis on which same-sex marriage proponents seek to change our laws. Is the state really in the business of celebrating our romantic lives?

What is the definition of a Socio-economic experiment?

Socio-economics can also be called Social economics. “"Social economics' may refer broadly to the "use of economics in the study of society."[1] More narrowly, contemporary practice considers behavioral interactions of individuals and groups through social capital and social "markets" (not excluding for example, sorting by marriage) and the formation of social norms.[2] In the latter, it studies the relation of economics to social values.[3]

In sociology, **sociological theories** are statements of how and why particular facts about the social world are related.[1] They range in scope from concise descriptions of a single social process to paradigms for analysis and interpretation. Some sociological theories explain aspects of the social world and enable prediction about future events,[2] while others function as broad perspectives which guide further sociological analyses.[3]

From: calexto77@gmail.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Marriage Equity Act,
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:25:42 AM

My name is Alexander Bernisto, me and my family reside in Kailua-Kona, my family and I would like to thanks all our Legislators for their service and their hard work in representing the people of Hawaii. We would like to let them know that we are against the Marriage Equity Act and we hope that our Legislators will vote against it as well.

Thank you very much,
Alexander Bernisto and Family

Committee on Judiciary & Labor

Hearing on Monday, October 28, 2013

Time: 10:30 a.m.

SB 1 Status & Testimony Relating To Equal Rights

Dear Senator Clayton Hee:

I am a voter in Hawaii and I would like to respectfully testify in writing that I do not support the passing of SB 1 regarding same-sex marriage. I believe that this bill in not related to equal rights but is in fact a moral issue which is against my beliefs as a Christian. It is stated in Genesis 1:27-28 and 2:24 that God ordained marriage to be between a man and a woman.

The Civil Union law which was passed by the legislature in 2011 affords the same benefits to same-sex couples as to all married couple in Hawaii, therefore it would be redundant to pass SB 1.

I urge the Legislature to have voters of Hawaii decide the same-sex marriage issue by putting it on the ballot.

Thank you very much for allowing me to testify in writing against SB 1.

May God bless you as you help to guide our State in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Amy Shinagawa

From: a jones
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: same sex marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:22:27 AM

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aloha,

please do not pass this bill, if you do it will change the dynamics of god's plan for all of us.

you have an important role not only to the people of Hawaii but also to God. you will be judge accordingly for your decisions as the rest of us.

I pray that you all will make the right decision.

may God bless you, Hawaii and our country!

mahalo for your time concerning this important bill.

Anastasia Jones.

From: Athan Adachi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:38:56 PM
Attachments: Hearing JDL 10-28-13.pdf

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

Testimony

I oppose same sex marriage or any other forms of combination of marriage other than a man and a woman. Yes, I have heard the United States Supreme Court ruled the federal government cannot discriminate against persons on the basis of homosexuality. But just what are we discriminating against the homosexuals by denying them to marry each other? If it is benefits, then pass legislation to give them the same benefits as married couples. Homosexuality is a lifestyle choice, not a civil right. For example, I choose to live in Hawaii therefore I am required to pay income tax. I wish to have the benefit of paying no state income tax as in Alaska and Nevada, but I can't have it unless I choose to move to those states. Homosexuals can choose to marry, if they marry the opposite sex. We are not discriminating homosexuals from marriage. I do not want to legalize any form of marriage other than a man and a woman as it will open the door to other forms of combinations of marriage in the name of discrimination and/or civil rights.

Athan Adachi
1702 Kalaepaa Drive
Honolulu, HI 96819-3011

From: Audrey Hyde
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony Against the Hawaii Marriage Equity Act of 2013
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:52:57 AM

I am Audrey Hyde. I represent my family and traditional marriage.

I am testifying in regards to the Hawaii Marriage Equity Act of 2013, and let it be documented that I personally oppose this bill.

I am opposed to the Act. As a mother of 6 children, I firmly believe that the traditional definition of marriage gives our children the best chance to grow up in a stable environment and become productive members of society. I am also opposed to the Act from a religious standpoint, as I believe that marriage between a man and a woman is an institution defined and ordained by God.

I do not believe that this law will be beneficial to our State, and respectfully ask that you vote against it, or strengthen the religious exemptions in the law.

I appreciate the time you have spent in hearing my position, which is in opposition to the Hawaii Marriage Equity Act of 2013.

Thank You,

Audrey Hyde

From: Barbara Brown
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:05:07 AM

I am submitting this testimony to say that I am against the passing of the Same- Sex Marriage Bill # SB1. I believe that the definition of marriage through the centuries and throughout most of the world has been the joining of a man and a woman. I do not believe that the majority of the people in the state of Hawaii want to change that definition. I also believe that such a major change in our cultural and religious beliefs should not be something decided in a rush special session. We the people of the state of Hawaii should decide this. We do not want our legislators making this decision for us. The possible consequences to our state and country if this bill passes are unbelievable. All you have to do is look at what has happened in places where same- sex marriage has passed, such as in Massachusetts and Canada.

We are being told and that homosexuality is a civil right just like race. You are born into your race, but homosexuality is a choice. You can not change your race, but people move in and out of homosexual lifestyle. I see in this the taking away of the rights of one group and giving them to another. We see the right to express religious beliefs in schools etc taken away, but homosexual behavior is being openly celebrated with parades and gay clubs in schools etc. What is becoming of our country is reminding me of Rome. I believe you can love people and respect them, but you do not have to condone or celebrate their moral choices.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Brown

From: Brad Barshaw
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Same Sex Marriage Hearing
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:05:06 AM

My name is Brad Barshaw and have lived in Hawaii since 1981. My family and I were Family of the Year in Hawaii in 1990 and my wife got the Jefferson Award for Hawaii in 1991 and we have a deep love for the people here. We have fostered 57 children and adopted 3 of those as our own and my wife works in th foster care arena, one of my adopted daughters is a nurse at Queens and my other daughter works with Epic Ohana with kids in the foster care arena. Our church also provides mentors for hurting kids at a local emementary school.

I am a pastor in Kailua and have had the privilege to talking with and helping all types of people including those who struggle with same sex sexual attraction. Though God has given us an amazing ability to love each each other and have authentic and healthy friendships with people of the same sex I believe a line is crossed even just physiologically when same sex people take their love into the sexual and marriage arena. Physiologically and spiritually it is a violation of the creators design and thus ultimately harmful to us physically, emotionally, sociologically and spiritually. We all have unhealthy bents and desires (drugs, lying, stealing, anger, sexual addictions beyond homosexuality etc.) that need to be conttolled and said no to if we are to pursue and experience the health that comes from following God's principles and design.

I love our state and people. I believe in justice, respect and equal rights for all of us as long as it aligns with that which is beneficial and in sync with God's design and principles as given in the Bible. Please say no to okaying same sex marriage.

Brad Barshaw

Brooke O'Day
874 Kahena St.
Honolulu, HI 96825

October 23, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because it does not fully protect our freedom of religion. While I respect that not everyone shares my religious beliefs, redefining marriage is a religious issue and if passed would infringe on Christian beliefs.

I have read the current form of the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act, and as it currently reads, section 572-G regarding Religious Organizations is vague and may not protect my church's beliefs if challenged. Bishops of my church perform marriages for our members, as well as, non-members. This bill would require our bishops to perform same sex marriages or else risk fines, litigations, and possibly losing non-profit status.

Also, while the bill attempts to protect religious organizations, it mentions nothing of protecting the rights of an individual's religious beliefs. I believe that marriage is a sacred ordinance between a man and a woman. Our country was founded on God and although society's definition of marriage is changing, God's never will.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Brooke ODay
Hawaii Voter

From: Charles kj Amsterdam
To: JDLTestimony-InPerson
Subject: Fw: Same-Sex Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 1:14:09 PM

This is the testimony to be presented at the hearing regarding Same-Sex Marriage by
C. Kaui Jochanan Amsterdam on Monday, Oct., 28, 2013.
Notice also has been sent
verifying that the testimony also will be provided by him in person before the hearing.
Mahalo and Shaloha.

Dear Officer of The Legislature of Hawaii:

Herein is vital knowledge, my request, and my testimony to you.

Mahalo and Shaloha (Shalom and Aloha),

Kaui Jochanan Amsterdam

n Saturday, October 19, 2013 1:37 PM, Charles kj Amsterdam <shaloha1@yahoo.com> wrote:

Same-Sex Marriage's Impact On All Of Hawaii's People

Like most people, my background influences my perspective. Being a Hawaiian Jew, I address the same-sex marriage issue.

First, as part of my Hawaiian heritage's motto, Ua Mau Ka Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono, The life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness, emphasizes that behavior be based on righteous, moral, ethical behavior, values, and principles. Such a sense of righteousness goes beyond the right of Hawaiian self-governance within the motto's historical context and is more inclusive as exemplified in the value of Aloha. Such moral behavior provides that the land and life of the people living on the land will be protected and preserved. Such benefits

also are divine and come from G-d. On the other hand, disregarding or dismissing the motto emphasizing moral action or living will result in the withdrawal or elimination of divine protection and preservation of the land and life of people in Hawaii through prevailing danger and destruction. Such danger includes occurances such as hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, terrorism, militarism, economic hardship, volcanic eruptions, natural disasters, pestilence, etc. In explaining such dangers, I do so with "Aloha" toward all our human ohana and without malice just as I would simply explain the dangerous impact of someone sticking their hand into flowing lava. Therefore, avoiding such danger and enjoying protection and preservation of the land and life of Hawaii's people simply require righteous, moral, and ethical behavior and living of the people of Hawaii.

Secondly, while my Hawaiian heritage emphasizes righteous, moral, and ethical values, behavior, and living, my Jew(ish) heritage clarifies what is and is not morality and righteousness as provided by such sources as prophets, scriptures, inspired sacred writings, reasoning, and revelations from G-d. Such clarification is included by Christians and numerous other entities. Non-righteous behavior included certain relations such as same-sex or gender sexual relations, which is associated with same-sex marriage. While other non-righteous behavior includes dishonesty, corruption, domestic violence, murder, prostitution, physical and mental abuse, etc., same-sex marriage is central and is like the straw that breaks the camel's back. Furthermore, in this situation other supporting factors include that the current Act is unfair and undermines Democracy and the People of Hawaii's choice of preserving the tradition of marriage of a union of one man and one woman as seen in Chapter 572 Marriage, section S572C-2, which the current Act deletes and forces such Hawaii voters to be subjected to same-sex marriage dangers, that the Constitution's protection of religious freedom and the exercise of moral and ethical values predominates over the requirement of equal protection under the Law due to the behavior of same-sex marriage being of a non-moral or non-righteous standard of conduct, and that exemptions for clergy from performing same-sex marriages insufficiently and without impact omits congregants and church values. It's like exempting particular clergy from performing same-sex marriages on the Titanic and dismissing the dangerous Titanic situation, which is analagous to the destructive same-sex marriage situation in Hawaii.

Thirdly, inasmuch as being identified as non-righteous, same-sex marriage violates the moral values expressed in Hawaii's motto and imposes devastating danger on the Land and Life of Hawaii's People. It is an unavoidable righteous, moral value issue, which, as such, if dismissed, will reap Catastrophe and, if honored, will "Perpetuate the Life of the Land".

Shaloha (Shalom and Aloha),
Kaui Jochanan Amsterdam
Leader
Kanaka Maoli Jew

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marraige because of our heartfelt concern and compassion for the future of our state. I concern over the physical, mental and emotional problems that will beset those who choose the homosexual lifestyle, and I object to what this will do to our community, my children and to my traditional family life. Evidence clearly show that children must be raised in a traditional family environment to thrive and to grow.

In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

From:	Bishop Carl E. Harris
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	Testimony In OPPOSITION to SB1, relating to "Equal Rights"
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:47:36 PM

October 24, 2013

To: Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
From: Carl E. Harris
Re: Testimony In OPPOSITION to SB1, relating to "Equal Rights"
Hearing Day & Date: Monday, Oct. 28th
Hearing Time & Place: 10:30am in the Hawai'i State Capitol Auditorium

To: Chair, Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair, Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1 and I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our state's history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this Special Session.

Regarding the Special Session, this is the first time a Governor has convened a Special Session individually, without a Legislative Vote for the sole purpose of passing a newly introduced bill in nearly 20 years. The Legislature could have called itself into a Special Session but it didn't. I believe not only has Governor Neil Abercrombie overstepped his bounds by calling a Special Session without an agreement of the legislature, but he is also unnecessarily burdening Hawaii taxpayers with yet another debt. Our taxpayer money could have been used to pay off debts rather than making another one. This issue surely could have been addressed in the 2014 Legislative Session.

This bill (SB1) should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people

who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousands of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in Special Session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

IF SB1 were to pass, the legalization of same sex “marriage” would take away my First Amendment rights. The First Amendment states: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;…” The precedence for this statement is what is going on in all the states where same sex “marriage” has been legalized. The negative effect it will have on our educational system will also be great: the education and indoctrination of our children as early as kindergarten in public schools is the pattern and operation of all other states where same sex marriage has been legalized.

Also, in March 2007, a church group that owns beachfront property in New Jersey wanted to stand for their religious beliefs. They did not want a same sex “civil union” to be performed on their property. In January 2012, a judge ruled that the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association’s refusal to rent the oceanfront spot to the couple for their same-sex union violated the public accommodation provisions of the state’s Law. Churches should be able to use their facilities in a way that is consistent with their beliefs! We should not lose our First Amendment rights just because a small group of people in Hawaii want *special rights*.
The Hawaii Civil Union Law provides all the same rights and benefits of marriage to same sex couples, except the use of the term. The term “marriage” is sacred and should not be used loosely. God has a definition for marriage in the Bible and while not all people read or believe the Bible, society has conformed to God’s definition of marriage for over 500 years. Marriage between one man and one woman provides stability for children. Scientific studies with large samplings have found that children do best in families with a father and a mother, (opposite sex couples.)

When we go outside the Creator’s intent and parameters for marriage, we are opening the doors for all kinds of destructive and shameless scenarios. We have to maintain a godly standard if we are to prosper here in Hawaii.
In addition, during the extensive civil unions discourse, the ACLU wrote in their testimony that they were going to stop at civil unions and not go on to push same sex “marriage” on the people of Hawaii. We now see that the

ACLU lied to the people of Hawaii. And former Representative Blake Oshiro who now works in the Governor's office said that none of the "horribles" that happened in other states where same sex "marriage" is legal would happen in Hawaii. Mr. Oshiro can't guarantee that. I don't know how he could blatantly lie to the people of Hawaii.

Following the legalization of same sex "marriage" is the prohibiting of the free exercise of religion in every state where same sex "marriage" is legal. I don't want to lose my First Amendment rights. My wife doesn't want to lose her First Amendment rights. As residents, registered voters, citizens, parents, grand-parents, pastors; we have to fight to preserve our godly standards and traditions and uphold the truth that's in the Bible. That's what God has called us to do. Do not as a legislator take away our First Amendment Rights, the First Amendment Rights of all the pastors in Hawaii, the First Amendment Rights of all the religious people in Hawaii and the generations to come. I appeal to you to exercise, integrity and concern for the people of Hawaii and vote NO on same sex "marriage" and that you will let the people decide!

Respectfully,

Bishop Carl E. Harris

Bishop Carl E. Harris

From: CAROL K NAKATA
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Re:10/28 Hearing -- TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 2:59:40 PM

Clayton Hee, Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

By: Carol K. Nakata 99-129 Uahi Street Aiea, HI 96701

Dear Honorable Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Please allow me to share two stories that relate to same-sex marriage. 1) After 9 mos. of pregnancy, my young nephew and his wife were joyfully expecting to welcome their first child. Instead, his wife died during childbirth. The baby, though, survived. This left the husband and extended family with deep grief, and years of coping in hardship. 2) After 8 months of pregnancy, my cousin was expecting to celebrate a new birth. Instead, the baby was delivered dead in a miscarriage.

I cite these stories of real grief & suffering to highlight the risks & sacrifices that heterosexual couples endure in the rendering of their uniquely natural contribution of children to society. Homosexual marriages could never match in value the rigors and expenses borne in heterosexual marriages -- of natural childbearing, of raising kids in homes balanced with the unique traits of male & female parents, and the perpetuation of the human race.

As one who's single, I gladly support any special benefits and rights above my own that we as society grant to traditional couples. They deserve it. The value of their contributions to society are unique, and far exceed what other persons can offer, either singly or as couples.

A true **inequality would result** if this Legislature grants homosexual couples the status of marriage on par with heterosexual couples. It would mean the granting of **equal rights & benefits for unequal contributions.**

Respectfully yours,
Carol K Nakata

From: Carolee Fernandez
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:38:46 PM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

To begin with I would like to commend you all for your service to Hawaii's people. However, what you are about to do now will have a far-reaching effect on ALL of us. How can you take away the voice of the registered voters in Hawaii? It is so underhanded! You will most certainly lose our trust. We will remember this and I am sure you will each, individually put some of the voters in your districts at odds with you. On top of it all remains the fact that we did vote a constitutional amendment (Art. 1, Section 23) in 1998. This amendment still reads the same. It can not be interpreted any other way.

Do the right thing now--Vote no or let the people's voices be heard.

Mahalo,
Carolee Fernandez
Registered voter

I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart and I will glorify thy name for evermore. Psalm 86:12

To: The Honorable members of the Senate and the House of the Hawaii State Legislature
From: Caroline Ward Oda – a registered voter
88 Wailupe Circle
Honolulu, HI 96821
Date: October 24, 2013

Re: SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

I have some deep concerns about SB 1 coming up in the scheduled special session at the end of this month.

I ask that you vote against it for the following reasons:

1- The group in favor of same sex unions – which I also favored - promised a year ago that that would be satisfactory and that they would not push for same-sex marriage.

2-The public accommodation protections for churches are insufficient partly because there is a misunderstanding of "membership" in relation to churches. Churches welcome many people who are not members. For example, our church shows free movies for families in Chinatown once a month. (You can imagine how costly it is for families on limited incomes to go to the movies with four or five people in the group.) We throw a big community fair for Chinatown in the Spring. We also provide a safe Halloween event which was attended by over 300 last year with 500 expected in a few weeks. At all of these events "non-members" are welcome.

3- We also rent our facility to other organizations such as St. Andrew's Priory School which has produced dramas, businesses that have group meetings (as you know there is a shortage of rental meeting spaces downtown) and other churches that have no facility of their own. Renting would mean that we fall under the "public accommodation" definition in the current bill.

4-The fourth reason I ask you to vote against the bill is that by extending the definitions of protection for sexual orientation, currently a protected class, as the bill does, the freedoms proscribed for that group transgress freedom of speech.

In a nation where we can burn the flag, put bomb-making instructions on the internet and display profanity on bumper stickers, our freedom of speech should not be curtailed by designating a group so protected that other opinions cannot be shared.

Again, I ask that you defeat SB 1.

Thank you,

Caroline Ward Oda

From: pukamail@yahoo.com
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Aloha. Same Sex Bill
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:39:57 PM

Aloha.

Firstly, Thank you for all the hard work and dedication to all of the people of Hawaii. I would like to discuss the same sex bill and how it uniquely effects our State.

Is the motivating factor behind this bill to receive federal dollars? This certainly is not for equality for all as this bill has been presented to the public. I can't understand how politicians seem to deceive the public for personal gain or power.

Think about this, are not bills passed by majority vote? Is not the president and all public positions elected by a majority vote. Why, because they are to represent the public democracy. I think the government has redefined democracy to whatever is mainstream at the time. The majority of taxpayers in Hawaii have voted against this bill, but politics seem to ignore this fact. The guise of this particular bill indicates equality for all. Lets review some fact:

1. Majority of voters in Hawaii overwhelmingly disagree that this bill is the best interest for the state. 70% said no to your bill.
2. Those majority of voters are not necessarily Christian, they could be of no religious affiliation.
3. Homosexual population are less than 10%, nationwide. The percent of the population who are looking for these equal rights are even less.
4. This bill will effect the remaining percent, 90%?
5. This bill will unequally benefit a very small portion of the population.
6. Homosexuals can already be married through a civil union ceremony, I am not clear the purpose of this bill is for equality or a soapbox to persecute any person who opposes them.
7. All of the children in public schools will be forced homosexual objectives, even against parents wishes. Homosexual books, no more celebrations of Mothers or Fathers days in elementary or middle schools because it oppresses homosexual rights under the new law. Even when less then 10% of the population is homosexual and even less than that are actually married. What about the man who wanted to marry his goat (this is a true story, unfortunately). Would we pass a equality bill to include marriages between animals and people? What I am saying is how far is this going to go?
8. Freedom of religion and religious persecution is a part of our constitution and bill of rights. Passing this law will persecute all religions who oppose that lifestyle. Religious people are not oppressing homosexuals personally, but oppose to being forced to participate in their lifestyle. We should be protected in America to exercise our given rights, no new laws should supersede that basic right. It's law is being placed as to oppress all religions and have a platform to legally harm all who oppose them. May I remind you that this percent is probably less than 5% of the population, so 5% can oppress 95%. Does this seem fair? Not to me.
9. The separation of church and state goes both ways. Keep your state out of my church.
10. Those who may agree with this bill might not be thinking about the percussion of future events. This is not just a religious rejection of this bill. This bill sets up the 95% for a plethora of future petty lawsuits from homosexuals who didn't get their photo in newspapers or equal rights to Christmas specials and radio and tv time, etc. anyways, there will be a huge opening of frivolous "they hurt my feelings" "I didn't get my fair share" complaining. This bill so guaranteeing all homosexuals the right to sue anyone if they perceive disagreement with them, they will use this bill to purposely oppress all people, sort of a "payback for all those folks who hurt their feelings their whole life". I'm sorry, they are a bunch of babies always crying about their rights. If your gay, then be gay. Homosexuals just want to use a law to oppress non-homosexuals. How has homosexuals convince you politicians that they just want equality. I know its not about equality. its about them forcing their lifestyle into the forefront of society, even if they are a small part of society. Why do you have to pass this particular law for them to be equal? If its about insurance or money, then pass a bill to allow partners to receive retirement benefits and what not other benefits. Marriage does not necessarily guarantee homosexuals that life will work out perfectly, they will be just as susceptible to

divorce than all other couples. Studies prove that divorce in homosexual couples equal hetero divorces.

11. What about my free speech rights? Now will I be prohibited from saying I don't agree with the gay lifestyle? Why isn't it my right to disagree, and I quietly disagree only to myself. I don't agree with people marrying animals either. Will I be fined or go to jail if I say so? What if I write a letter to the editor in the newspaper saying the same, will I be arrested? This bill is removing my basic rights as a American. Too oppressive society and overly governed. This small percent of society is controlling the majority, this is not about equality. It's about controlling hetero and anti homosexual behavior. It's about favoring less than 5% of the population over the rest, it's not right. I agree that no one should oppress homosexuals, but I disagree with legislation to give a format to control every personal right that has been in effect in this country since inception for all people. Homosexuals have all the rights to put heterosexuals down and say "you hate us, etc." which is not true. They can say anything to us, but if they are slightly offended, they will sue. This law is wrong. I love my homosexual family members, but I still disagree with homosexual marriage. I should be allowed to think so in this country, unless I am living in a communist state.

12. Homosexuals are covered by the civil rights laws anyways, why do they need more legislation? Why does the laws have to be only for gay people? This is so odd that our country is favoring such a small community. I have never seen any homosexual oppressed. All prior laws have been passed by the majority, allow the voting record stands, Hawaii voted no to this bill. you should be better representatives and listen to what They function just as all citizens do without any interruption. Why does there need to be offensive legislation to every person who is not gay? Why not just add addendum to the civil rights bills? Homosexuals are not oppressed as a whole, as African Americans were pre civil rights days. Homosexuals have all the rights as anyone does. There is no real evidence that this extreme of a law must be put into effect. Tax law, inheritance laws, benefits laws, etc can be changed then making a overlying law into effect that essentially oppresses the masses who are not homosexual. This is wrong.

13. I reject any legislation that prohibits me from practicing my religion, freedom of speech, freedom of choice. I should be able to defend my position without being forced by law and threat of lawsuits. I already have to include homosexuals at work, in the community, and every part of American life, why now do I have to include homosexual advantage into my personal life and religion by force. Everything has been working fine in society up to now, this law is too vague and too overly general and it oppresses more people than it is intending to serve. The civil rights of homosexuals should be protected, like serving at a restaurant or other establishment. But when you tell me I cannot object to how I live my life is too personal, if a owner of a private establishment does not want to serve homosexuals due to their religious beliefs, should be allowed to do so, because they are not a public entity or a government entity. I do not oppress homosexuals, but they are trying to oppress me. They use the Christians as a whipping post, but all major religions object to homosexual marriage. Homosexuals were around during biblical times, look at Sodom and Gomorrah and how young boys were forced into sexual slavery and raped because it was a belief that it was their civil right in their society. Where does the morals stand in society? Where is it going in our State? I do not oppress homosexuals because it is within my religion not to hate the sinner, but tell the truth in love. This whole bill is wrong, it oppresses the majority, it oppresses my right to religion.

14. I do not think this law is to everyone's benefit. A new more inclusive law that allows rights already guaranteed by law that this new law cannot supersede.

15. It is not true that heterosexuals are separating "homosexual families". Family should be ohana, be who you are. Hawaii has traditionally accepted all kinds of families. It is unfair to throw that accusation out there, that is a dramatic act to gain acceptance, but is not true. A dirty tactic.

Keep the vote of the majority of this states rights valid. We don't want it in our schools, in our hospitals, in our churches. Stop this favoring one group over the other for greedy benefit of federal dollars.

Keep your state out of my religion.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ehrgott
Taxpayer
Citizen
Opposer of this particular bill
Voter who is not afraid to vote for someone else next round

Sent from my iPad

From:	Katie J
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:07:29 AM

To: Clayton Hee, Chair and The State Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Date and Time of Hearing: Monday, October 28th, 10:30 a.m.

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the State Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I, Catherine Jacobsmeyer, admit right up front that my opposition to the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 is based in part on my spiritual/religious beliefs. I acknowledge that there are those in Hawaii who do not share my religious beliefs, but I want you to know I feel very strongly that this act is wrong, and its passage would be a serious mistake. My husband, my five children, and I are all opposed to same-sex marriage. We believe that we are a “nation under God,” and as such, we will receive blessings as we obey His commandments. We believe marriage between a man and woman is ordained of God, and that sexual activity should only occur between a man and woman who are married. We also believe that God’s doctrines don't change, even when man's views change with the times. Our opposition to this legislation does not reduce our regard for all people, including individuals burdened by same sex attraction. However, as residents of Hawaii, we ask that you do not legalize same-sex marriage in this state.

Marriage between a man and woman is and always has been the basic building block for human civilization and is the natural medium by which God intends for His children to come into the world and be nurtured to adulthood. Children are entitled to birth and rearing within the bonds of matrimony between a man and a woman. This union does far more than merely meet the needs of the involved adults. While the long term results of a child’s being reared in a same sex marriage have not been completely explored, I intuitively shudder to think of the possible negative effects and havoc it might wreak. I acknowledge the high number of single parents who are rearing children and doing an excellent job. I also acknowledge that the motivated single parent can often compensate for the missing role model of the mother or the father in the children’s lives. But I’m most concerned about the parental model consisting of a

same-sex couple's being deeply implanted in the child's mind through parental modeling. This unnatural imprint and influence may have lasting and devastating consequences.

I grew up in a household where my sister struggled with same-sex attraction. Whether this condition was "foisted off" on her without her having played any causative role or not, she has the agency to decide her behavior. I believe in her case and with many others, they would have it the other way if they could. I acknowledge that living out one's life and trying to maintain the moral standard of chastity—in this case celibacy—is most difficult. But it is possible, and I feel strongly that when a couple—whether they be homosexual or heterosexual—has sexual relations outside of marriage, they are guilty of breaking a fundamental and most vital principle of God's law.

This issue is bigger than the question of whether society should be more tolerant. If passed, this act would infringe on religious freedom and redefine marriage, creating a new "civil right." I rue the day when a judicial court of the land decides to penalize our churches because we refuse full religious privileges to same sex couples living together. I know that our church will never—and I emphasize never—acknowledge same-sex marriage as being morally correct. I regard the Hawaii Equality Marriage Act of 2013 as a real potential violation of our basic First Amendment rights. In addition, my family and I feel the rights embodied in Amendment I, which also guarantee religious freedoms to those involved in businesses and other organizations must be preserved. If this legislation passes, we ask for stronger exemptions for religious clergy, religious institutions, religious facilities, and small businesses than are currently proposed. We urge that these exemptions be extended to all people and organizations of faith, so as to protect religious groups from being required to support, condone, or perform same-sex marriages or to host same-sex marriages in their facilities. We must protect individuals and small businesses from being required to assist in promoting or celebrating same-sex marriages.

Finally, as a mother of five wonderful daughters, I am haunted by the possible negative effects that the passing of this bill could have on them. After studying some of these negative effects that are happening in states such as Massachusetts, I have decided that I do not want that for my children. If passed, the teaching that same-sex marriage is normal would permeate into our schools and reach impressionable children as young as four years of age. It would also infect our public libraries, our media, our businesses, and our churches.

I plead with you. Please consider our views and oppose this bill. Thank you.

Catherine P. Jacobsmeyer

From:	Cecilia Mukai
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	SB 1 - RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS - VOTE "NO"
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 1:52:05 PM

Aloha, Hawaii Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee

I wish to register my **opposition** to the passage of **SB 1**. I believe the "equal rights" being promoted is the overstepping of the rights of the majority of Hawaii citizens, who already voted for the institution of marriage to be between a husband and a wife, by that of a minority. Hawaii has been called the "Health State" and statistics supports better health outcomes of families with a father and mother in the home. Let's keep Hawaii healthy.

I urge you to vote against SB 1.

Mahalo,
Cecilia Mukai
19 Hualilili St.
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Celeste Tefan
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: I oppose the bill regarding same sex marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:25:47 AM

My name is Celeste Tefan and I am a wife and homemaker.

I am testifying in regards to S.B. NO. 1, and let it be documented that I personally oppose this bill and any fraction thereof.

I believe in traditional marriage and do not agree with same sex marriage. I have been learning about this new proposed bill and do not believe that it protects MY rights and religious freedoms so I am STRONGLY OPPOSED to it. The people of Hawaii have voted on this issue before! Why does it keep popping up again? And why is our vote as a populace not being taken into consideration?

I appreciate your time and pray that my religious beliefs will be protected, and that this current bill will not pass.

Thank you very much,

Celeste Tefan
91-1752 Paeko St.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

From:	Hotmail
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Say NO to SB1
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 6:11:44 PM

Greetings,

In his "letter from Birmingham jail" Martin Luther King Jr. wrote about something he called "just" and "unjust" laws. He made a clear distinction between both of them.

In his words: "A just law is a man made code that squares with the moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law."

According to the Bible, marriage is ordained by God to be between a man and a woman. The Biblical viewpoint of marriage has been the universal understanding of marriage in every human civilization in world history.

I believe in the sanctity of marriage as that loving union between one man and one woman. Anything less, in my eyes, would be "out of harmony with the moral law" or the law of God.

As my voice in government, I urge you to support what we know as truth, traditional marriage.

Sincerely,
Charleen Kageno

From: Charles Scalera
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Say "NO" to same-sex marriage.
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:40:38 AM

Say "NO" to same-sex marriage.

These islands are special in God's eyes. Please keep them that way. These islands have a lot to work on but we have always tried to do what is right in the sight of GOD. I know everyone has heard the saying God created Adam and Eve, GOD did not create Adam and Steve. (Genesis Chapter 1). This not a joke it is the truth. The scriptures below are what HE has said. Let's us as a small island speak loudly and stand before a big Nation and declare that these islands have integrity and morals and will still Love and Serve a GOD according to HIS words.

Again, Please vote "NO" to same-sex marriage

Please read the scriptures below to see what God says about same-sex marriage.

Genesis Chapter 18 and Chapter 19
Genesis Chapter 18 Genesis 19

Isaiah Chapter 20

Isaiah Chapter 24

Isaiah Chapter 41

Isaiah Chapter 51

Ezekiel Chapter 26

Romans Chapter 1

http://www.biblegateway.com/

Aloha and God Bless
Charles and Shanna Scalera

From:	Charles Hughes
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:05:22 PM

Charles T. Hughes, II

66 Queen St #2803, Honolulu, HI 96813

October 24, 2013

RE: Special Session for Same Sex Marriage

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing you to share my thoughts on the Special Session on Same Sex Marriage.

I am a christian and love all of God's children including those who support Same Sex Marriage. I believe in equal rights for all and believe God made the sacred union of marriage for one man and one woman. I am opposed to the Same Sex Marriage Bill and disagree with the Governor in calling a special session. By the calling of a special session I do not believe it will allow all parties and their elected officials to fully vet the full ramifications of this issue. The case studies of how this issue has changed the school system in Canada and Massachusetts and both parental rights and religious freedom is disconcerting. It is for these reasons that I do not support the Same Sex Marriage Bill.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and for reading my email.

Peace be with you as you make your difficult decision.

United we stand, one nation, under GOD!

Charles T. Hughes II
cthii54@yahoo.com

From:	Charles Hughes
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:05:22 PM

Charles T. Hughes, II

66 Queen St #2803, Honolulu, HI 96813

October 24, 2013

RE: Special Session for Same Sex Marriage

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing you to share my thoughts on the Special Session on Same Sex Marriage.

I am a christian and love all of God's children including those who support Same Sex Marriage. I believe in equal rights for all and believe God made the sacred union of marriage for one man and one woman. I am opposed to the Same Sex Marriage Bill and disagree with the Governor in calling a special session. By the calling of a special session I do not believe it will allow all parties and their elected officials to fully vet the full ramifications of this issue. The case studies of how this issue has changed the school system in Canada and Massachusetts and both parental rights and religious freedom is disconcerting. It is for these reasons that I do not support the Same Sex Marriage Bill.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and for reading my email.

Peace be with you as you make your difficult decision.

United we stand, one nation, under GOD!

Charles T. Hughes II
cthii54@yahoo.com

From: janell beattie
To: JDLTestimony
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 2:03:27 AM

Oct. 25, 2013

To: Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
From: Christian & Janell Beattie
Re: In Strong OPPOSITION to SB1, relating to "Equal Rights"
Hearing Day & Date: Monday, Oct. 28th
Hearing Time & Place: 10:30 A.M. in the Hawai'i State Capitol Auditorium

To Chair, Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair, Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee

We are Christian & Janell Beattie, husband and wife. We are testifying on the measure SB1. We are in strong OPPOSITION to SB1.

The Supreme Court has already said that gay rights is not a civil rights issue. Therefore, we believe that by legalizing gay marriage, you would be trying to normalize or legitimize this lifestyle and behavior. This lifestyle is not normal. With this lifestyle comes many physical consequences such as: HIV, HSV, Syphilis, Rectal Gonorrhea, Rectal Chlamydia, Urethral CT & Gc, Pharyngeal Gonorrhea. It takes a man and a woman to procreate. God intended it that way. Babies cannot come from two males or two females. If you legalize gay marriage, it would be detrimental to our society, our state, our children. Homosexuals will have the right to come into our public schools and teach children that homosexuality is accepted. Would you want your children to learn that lifestyle is normal?
Homosexuality Is NOT NORMAL. In 1998, the people of Hawaii already decided to oppose same sex marriage. We did not give the legislature the power to redefine marriage. Let the people of Hawai'i vote! If you do your research where other states have legalized same sex marriage, you will see the destruction it is causing to their citizens including their children.

In closing, we both are STRONGLY URGING YOU TO VOTE NO TO SB1!

Sincerely,
Christian & Janell Beattie
324 Olomana Street
Kailua, HI 96734
620-0939

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: kahukuborn@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)*
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:36:01 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Benjamin Faustino	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: tinanozawa@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:32:10 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Christina Taosoga	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I oppose this bill. I am also in total shock and disbelief that you all have not let this issue be voted on by the people of Hawaii. This is not an issue that should be decidedon in a special session. I will be there to testify and I will be more then happy to voice my stand on this issue. Auwe! Shame on all of you for taking away the right to vote from the PEOPLE OF HAWAII!!!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Mr. Lowe, Musical Theater Instructor
To: JDLTestimony; judsstestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:55:24 AM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor & Honorable Chairs Rhoads, Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committee:

This is a government for the people, of the people and by the people. After all, people put you where you are and allow you to be paid to sustain yourselves and your families. Your job is to listen to the people and vote according to the will of the majority of the people. After all, majority rules. We propose that law makers vote NO on this measure and create the opportunity for this issue to be presented as a ballot issue that the people of Hawaii can vote on. It costs money to do a special session, so if you are willing to spend money on a special session, then you must be equally willing to put this issue to a vote of the people.

Our gay brothers and sisters are equally protected under the constitution. This is not a fight about anger or discrimination against the gay community. This is a stand for moral principle and the health of society that is conducive to the well being of children being raised by one man (father) and one woman (mother). The institution of marriage between a man and a woman has a higher purpose than just "love".

We testify that the sacred powers of procreation are to be employed only between a man and a woman, lawfully wedded as husband and wife. This is the only ordained means whereby children are created and brought to the earth. There is no other way.

You will do damage to the fundamental unit of society and bring about confusion, costly, negative consequences and ills to the individuals and people of this state with this bill. You will DO RIGHT to strengthen society and protect the sanctity of marriage (1man+1woman) and family when you - LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON MARRIAGE.

Sincerely and respectfully yours,
Christopher Lowe
Saofai Lowe
AlemaMax Lowe
Marann Lowe
Faith Lowe

From: CLINE ARDO
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:06:01 AM

From:
Cline D. Ardo
3625 Alani Drive
Honolulu, Hi 96822

Karl Rhoads and Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Judiciary Committee, House Finance Committee
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chiars Rhoads and Luke and Members of House Judiciary and Finance Committees:

I am opposed to this bill and its re-defining of marriage to include same-sex couples. The effects would be devastating to island families and their future generations. It is a slippery slope that once we start down it there will be no turning back. One would just need to look closely at the states that have enacted this as legislation to see the "hand-cuffing" effects it will have on religious freedoms and rights as parents/grandparents in raising our keiki according to what we believe is right and true.

The will of the Hawaii people was already expressed already by voters as keeping marriage defined as between one man and woman. It is really a travesty that only a handful of legislators will decide the outcome of whether this becomes law or not. It should be a decision of all the people of Hawaii, especially regarding legislation that will have far reaching effects into our families and generations to come.

We should not simply jump on the band wagon because other states have done so, this does not make it right. Hawaii should stand up for what is right, which my family and I entirely believe is a bill that should not become a law.

Respectfully Submittted,
Cline D. Ardo

From:	Clive Cowell
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:04:38 AM

I wish to submit to the following testimony.

First, of all I wish to apologize for remarks made in our community that are derogatory to other human beings. Names, slurs and disgust aimed at others should have no place if we are to treat each other in love. I state my own apology because I see myself as a part of this community, not a separate being. We can do better and must do better if we are to treat one another in love. When I read and hear comments that are disparaging, I hold my own head in shame. I apologize.

Second, I wish to present my voice in opposition to the recognition of marriage between same sexes. Here is why. My argument is philosophical, rooted in how I see God theologically; it is based on the notion of His expression of love.

I thank you greatly for taking the time to read this testimony. It is a privilege, and one I am thankful for. Thank you for your service to others.

Again, here is my testimony of opposition against what is known as "Same sex marriage."

C.S. Lewis wrote that the words from the Bible,

> *"'God is love'* have no real meaning unless God contains at least two persons. Love is something that one person has for another person. If God was a single person, then before the world was made, He was not love.'" *Mere Christianity, (San Francisco, Harper Collins, 1980), 1974*.

If we are to understand that 'God is love,' as presented from the Bible in 1 John 4:8, we must acknowledge or reject that position. If we accept that God is love, we must also accept that He was a being of 'two' in the beginning. If not from the beginning, then, again, God could not have been love.

Of course, C.S. Lewis was referring to God the Father, and God the Son, namely, Jesus Christ, as the two eternal beings - who loved each other as Father and as a beloved Son; from the beginning and, even until this time. The role of the Holy Spirit, another being, was to communicate that love; *as spirit speaks to spirit*. With these three beings, we understand that there is perfect love. A Father and a Son, and One (the Holy Spirit) that communicates the love between the two.

To continue, God expresses Himself personally as Father, Son and Holy Spirit in mutual love and glory. The "*oneness*" of God implies His inherent unity and equality; God is "*wholly other*" in union and communion.

Having established, by way of amplifying the Biblical text, the notion that God is "*wholly other*" it should be noted that God's giving love is not exclusive for He expresses His love by creating "*all things, visible and invisible*." The Triune God called all of creation into existence – "*and it was good*". His loving desire was to create a universe with relational beings (the male-female "*man*") in His own image and to enjoy all that He had created – "*and it was very good*". Why? Because the Father wanted to share His Son with others in His creation in order to spread the goodness of their own shared love and glory, and to offer His Son a beautiful bride, perfectly suited to Him:

> *"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his*

wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Ephesians 5:31-32.

The end of the Bible is instructive:

"*Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb*." Revelation 21:9.

True human love must always have Christ as its ultimate focus (as the Father's love for the Son sets out) and its greatest priority (as we were made by God to be lovers of God). True love is that He (the Father) accepts us IN CHRIST; he values us IN Christ; and he forgives us IN Christ) as opposed to a human-focused-separate from God 'love' which is all about, and only, "*us*", "*us*", "*us*". The objects of our worship are not each other, nor the self, but the Father and the Son; this is true love. The Spirit is the One who inspires and enables us to worship in such a way.

God wanted His love to be eternally spread out among His creation desiring man *and* woman to freely have Christ as the ultimate focus (as the Father's love for the Son sets out) and greatest priority (as we were made by God to be lovers of God). Yet in that freedom man and woman, replaced Christ as the focus embracing the Serpent's call (See Genesis 3) to be like God themselves [God's freedom even allowed the one originally intended to lead worship and love of God to turn inwardly and away from God, Ezekiel 18].

In responding to the call and becoming self-lovers, the male and female abused their moral freedom and rebelled against God, thus destroying the loving holy union they originally enjoyed with Him; they were no longer loyal to God and they had broken loyalty to each other. The loving life of fellowship they previously enjoyed was broken and resulted in eternal separation; they were now spiritually dead, giving birth to Spirit-less people; self-loving people. Their focus was and continues to be a focus on the self, and the greatest priority is the self – such is the nature of their deadness. The ultimate expression of this is to love and serve the self – the Greek word *homo: meaning same* would express such a notion. By way of contrast, when tempted by the devil, the Son remained loyal to the Father, and even when the Son took the sin of the world upon Himself on the cross, the Father remained loyal to the Son.

My testimony is that God is love. More importantly, that testimony is itself from the Bible, so, 1 John 4:8. My testimony is that God's love is creative. The notion of His love is one of union and communion. That can only be expressed in otherness, not in sameness. God is "*other*" focused, or to use the Greek term, God is "*hetero*" in His outward focus. This is what He is. What is God *not*? God is not "*self-serving*" or to use the Greek term "*homo*." Love that is relationally only toward the same, i.e., *homo*, will never be creative. And if not creative, then while those beings may '*love'* each other, they will not, nor never can they be creatively loving, in and of themselves; even if they express, "*we have love*."

God created beings to love "*the other*", meaning he created a male to love a female. This is how we can picture "*otherness*". These male-female creatures were made not just to love each other, but to be in union with God as a male-female oneness. In that oneness they are to be Christ's *other* love. That is to say, Christ and the male-female are the *relational image of God.* This is very good in God's eyes.

Anything different runs counter to God's stated desires. It is why God paints such striking tones in both the Old Testament and New Testament.

"*Do not practice homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman. It is a detestable sin*." Leviticus 18:22

"*If a man practices homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman, both men have committed a detestable act. They must both be put to death, for*

they are guilty of a capital offense." Leviticus 20:13

"*those who practice homosexuality… none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God*" 1 Cor. 6:9-11.

"*men who practice homosexuality, … contrary to sound doctrine*." 1 Tim. 1:8-10.

Ultimately, our relationship in God is based on a submission to the *other*, namely, God. If we are to circumvent that position, by claiming equality with God, we discount Him as God. Such an effort is our effort to be the same as Him. Such an effort, such a desire, is to be *homo,* that is, "*same*".

But we are not God. He is.

He wants us in relationship with Him, even though, and this shows His amazing love, even though we want to be God. He offers that relationship to us, even though we are *hetero* to Him. This is part of His love. He loves the *other*.

The LORD God invites such a relationship, but it necessarily requires a change of heart in how we view ourselves. For God will not encounter that which is against His own desires, will, and Kingdom. There can only be One God, and no other God.

Our image of our self is tragically polluted. We believe that we can aspire to "*great*" heights if we bring about equality as we see it. Yet such a road, if traveled, will always run away from our true humanity *in God*.

I state "no" to the recognition of what is known as same sex marriage.

In love, and, as I see it, from a standpoint of what the Bible proclaims, I make these statements.

More importantly, beyond my testimony, is the call for our community to look to His own words, the Bible; a greater testimony than mine.

Clive M. Cowell

From:	Crystal Dohie
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Testimony on Senate Bill 1, "Equal Rights"
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:16:23 AM

Honored Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am very troubled by this bill, ironically named, "Equal Rights." We were told that equal rights was what the Civil Union bill was supposed to accomplish. This bill under review now crosses the line and penalizes those whose consciences and opinions disagree with the LGBT. Freedom of thought, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, property rights are all in peril with this law that could make mere disagreement a crime. This is not "equal rights." This is an assault on freedom of conscience.

It is a travesty against the good people of Hawaii to put this kind of burdensome yoke on their back. Mainland agenda can stay on the mainland. Hawaii has always been a welcoming place of aloha to all people everywhere. We do not need this kind of legislation. It is insulting and discriminatory.

Please throw out this bill. Thank you.

--
Crystal Dohie

From: Dale Hammond
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Bill 1, Special Session of Legislature
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:02:41 PM

Senator Clayton Hee
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senate Bill 1
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

We are Dale & Carol Hammond, representing ourselves from Laie of your district

We are testifying on Bill 1 of the Special Session called by Governor Ambercrombie.

We are adamantly opposed to the passage of Bill 1 dealing with the legalization of same gender marriage for the following reasons:

1. Our major objection is that same gender marriage is offensive in the eyes of God, who created the Earth for the benefit of man and decreed in the Garden that marriage should be between a man and a woman for the procreation of the species and for the benefit of the children. However, we realize that many people now-a-days have lost respect for God and drifted away from his Gospel. How they live their lives is up to them, but the majority are still God fearing people and their conscience is opposed to this action.
2. However, from a human cultural perspective, from the beginning of society thousands of years ago, nearly all cultures have recognized that to preserve their society, it was necessary to procreate the species, which obviously is only possible between a male and a female partner. In addition, a formalized association between those two individuals was found necessary for the well being of the society and the proper upbringing of the offspring from that procreation. Thus, marriage between a man and a woman has been with us from the very beginning of society and has been shown time after time to be of the greatest advantage to a well functioning society. And, until very recently, from a historical perspective, divorce was either not allowed or was very difficult to obtain, in order to preserve the society. Since the arrival of no fault divorce, society has significantly gone down hill.
3. Modern scientific study has shown that males and females are hard wired from before birth to bring different and complimentary characteristics to that association. When both are functioning in their proper roles the children of that marriage stand a far better chance of contributing to society rather that becoming problems to such. When either the mother or the father vacates the home, by divorce, desertion, etc., the children suffer, and it is most often that the father is unfortunately absent from the home and the mother is left to fend on her own. Examine the following statistics from Government and scholarly research on the absence of a father in the home (The source is the Hutchison Report, Oct. 22, 2013, individual references are given with each statistic:

EFFECTS OF A FATHERLESS HOME, Pastor Hutchinson report, The Blaze.com, Tuesday, October 22, 2013)

63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes. (US Dept. Of Health & Census)
80% of rapists with anger problems are from fatherless homes. (Justice & Behavior V14)
70% of children w/ involved father less likely to drop out of school. (Nat. Household Ed.

Survey)
75% of teens in chem. abuse centers from fatherless homes. (Rainbows for all God's children)
53% teen girls from fatherless homes more likely to marry as teens. (Parents & Prisons Policy Rev. 2003)
711% of girls from fatherless homes more likely to have kids as teens. (Ibid)
164% of girls from fatherless homes more likely to have premarital sex. (Op.Cit.)
92% of teens from fatherless homes more likely to divorce even if do get married. (Parents, op cit)
90% of homeless and run-aways are from fatherless homes. (US Dept. Justice, Sp Rep, 1988)
71% of pregnant teens are from fatherless homes. (Dept. Of Health & Human Services)

Do you think that not having a father in the home affects our next generation?

We know that many valiant single women work very hard to overcome these disadvantages of not having a father in the home and do very well. That is why the statistics are not higher, but the statistics are there and society suffers as a result of not having so many fathers in the home. Bill 1 will only contribute of these homes.

4. Same gender relationships DO NOT convey that same stability to society. Two women can not make up for the lack of the influence of a man in the home, and two men can not compensate for the lack of influence of a woman in the home. The result is not the same and this has been recognized from the beginning of society on this earth.
5. One of the most profound concerns of the Founding Fathers of this nation was that of conscience! Under King George, conscience was not allowed! It was his way all the way. From the beginning of this nation conscience has been inviolate! The first amendment was specifically proposed to protect conscience! This principle of conscience has served this nation for nearly 250 years. But now it is being seriously attacked! Because of the complications of the necessity of exemptions for religious organizations, their facilities and any ancillary organization associated with them, passage of the bill will be a nightmare for a large portion of the people of Hawaii whose conscience requires them to follow the laws of God. These individuals will now be inundated with lawsuits, as has been evidenced in other areas of the country where same gender marriage has been passed. In addition, LGBT doctrine will be forced into being taught in the schools systems, forcing people of conscience to pull their children out of the public schools and either home school them or pay for private school systems.
6. Lastly, all this is being pushed by a very small minority of the population of this state and of the nation, whose admitted goal is to teach their lifestyle in the schools and make it respectable in America. It is estimated that those involved in the LGBT movement of Hawaii are less than 1,000 individuals, and constitute 0.002% of the population of Hawaii. In this case, it is not just the tail that is wagging the dog, it is a few hairs on the tail that are wagging the dog. In a republic like America, the laws are controlled by the majority, and the majority are not in favor of this bill, as evidenced by their past actions.

This bill represents a very serious change to the laws of Hawaii, more serious than any thing that has ever come before the legislature. Since the effects are so far reaching to all concerned, this should be decided by a proposal put before the people of Hawaii in the 2014 election.

We strongly oppose Bill 1 of the Special Session of the Hawaii Legislature and strongly encourage you to vote NO on this bill and to support a proposal for the people of Hawaii to

determine this in the 2014 election.

Thank you

Dale & Carol Hammond
55-705 Wahinepee St
Laie, HI

From: Dan Gubler
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Opposition to Bill in Special Legislative Session
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:10:44 PM

Aloha,

My name is Dan Gubler and I am a resident of Oahu, Hawaii. I am testifying on the state measure before the Senate on Marriage Equality. I am testifying in opposition to this bill.

I have researched and compared Hawaii's marriage equality act to that of other states and find that Hawaii's is far too intrusive on the rights of independent organizations of faith.

I myself attend a church that does not endorse same-gender marriages yet our clergy will be forced to perform them or face legal action. I feel that the freedom of worship how we please in our private church facilities is just as important as that of public accomodations, separate but equal.

Please take into account what the majority of the people of Hawaii want when you consider this bill. I feel strongly that your voting public do not agree with the current version of this bill.

Mahalo for your service.
Dan Gubler
55-463 Moana Street
Laie, Hawaii 96762
808-234-9128

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: darrell808+pono@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:23:49 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/24/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Darrell Kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to SB1 because of the following points: 1) This important issue should not have been rushed through a special session, but rather should have been discussed in a regular session with more opportunity for public input, or even better, put up for vote by the people in a constitutional amendment; 2) Doctrinally this bill does not align with my religious beliefs on marriage; 3) I believe that if SB1 is passed, that there are not enough religious protections included, this will take away the ability for me and my family to enjoy our religion the way we do today. Mahalo, Darrell Kim

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: Darryl Willis
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:29:26 PM

Clayton Hee, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor

My name is Darryl Willis, and I live at 340 Kapii Place, Hilo, HI 96720.

I would like to voice my opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality.

This is an important issue that should be taken up with a lot of time, thought and input from the people. This is how our democracy was meant to work. However, a special session treats the issue lightly in the sense that it is a rush job, and does not give ample consideration that other bills receive in a regular session. This bill at the very least needs the full consideration that a regular legislative session would provide. It is so important, it would even be better to put it on a ballot, and let the people decide directly. This is not a civil rights issue as the proponents say. It is about changing the definition of marriage.

I have 2 grandsons, both innocent and beautiful little boys, not yet in school, but that is not far off. It is a horrible thought that someday if this bill passes, they could and probably would be taught in school that same-sex relations are OK. It is wrong and clearly violates nature. The picture of my grandsons sitting in class learning instructions about homosexual acts is very distressing. This is the future if this bill passes. It's already happening elsewhere. This is about the proper definition of marriage being between one man and one woman. It is about our legacy of raising our families in a civil and moral society. Government has an obligation to the people to protect and maintain a society that is optimal for families and raising children. Changing the definition of marriage will cause this to decay.

Government can still find a way to provide benefits to same-sex couples. The alteration of the definition of marriage is not necessary.

Please protect our religious freedom. Most churches are open to public functions and events. Government should not force churches to marry same-sex couples against their religious beliefs nor force into law doctrine that is so against the traditions of our country.

I urge you to stop this bill. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Darryl D. Willis

Registered voter: Senate District 1 and House District 2.

From: David Kammerer
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Marriage Equality Act
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 12:47:02 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am vehemently opposed to the proposed legislation contained in SB 1. It is clearly a case of legislative overreach, since all civil rights and legal protections ostensibly sought by same-sex couples are already provided in this state by the 2011 Civil Unions Law. I find it cowardly, cynical, and frankly shameful that consideration of the bill was relegated to a special session scheduled for the minimum five day span.

Although I deplore our elected officials' machinations in caving to activists' demands to redefine marriage, I am most concerned about the sloppy and inadequate language protecting religious freedoms and freedoms of individual conscience. I hope you will collectively practice due diligence in reviewing the religious freedoms protection language of other same-sex marriage states with the intent of improving the language of SB 1.

I am a constituent of Rep. Richard Fale's district and I am confident that he will represent my views on this subject. As I am also a constituent of Sen. Hee's district, please know that I will do everything in my power to convince fellow constituents to vote him out during his next reelection bid if he continues his blanket advocacy of this bill as it now stands.

Aloha--David

David M. Kammerer, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Music
Chair, Department of Music and Theatre Arts
BYU-Hawaii
BYUH Box 1953
55-220 Kulanui Street
Laie, HI 96762
Office phone: 808-675-3913
david.kammerer@byuh.edu

To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Same-Sex Marriage Testimony
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:59:21 AM

I am a registered voter on Alexander Street 96822.

I am OPPOSE to this Same-Sex Marriage Bill for the following reasons:

1. The bill is considered UNCONSTITUTIONAL because it uses STATE LAW (Public Accommodations) to override CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (Freedom of Religion/Speech).

2. The bill is UNFAIR because it really LIMITS PROTECTION on FAITH ORGANIZATIONS. With the three stipulations that must be met, two are totally UNFAIR: Faith facilities must be used by members only (church is not exclusive and everyone knows this); Faith facilities must be used for Faith activities (and that is also not true, because churches are open to allow other activities to the public). One cannot expect that this two conditions be met because Faith organizations help the public in whatever way it can throughout the years.

3. The bill is UNFAIR because it DOESN'T address FAITH INDIVIDUALS and even their BUSINESSES. Same-sex couples will be able to sue these people for not wanting to serve them. This is not a HATE ISSUE, but rather a decision to follow one's conscience based on his/her faith. This is RELIGIOUS FREEDOM and FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

4. The Special Session DOES NOT ALLOW for enough time to get all testimonies presented to the legislature; this includes outer island individuals or individuals who do not have access to computer. This is such a social-change issue that the people should be involved.

5. There is a RUSH on this issue and this should be AVOIDED. This is no longer a MARRIAGE issue but a FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND SPEECH issue. There should be more time to look at all FAIRNESS to both sides. This bill currently protects same-sex marriage couples only.

6. In all fairness, THE PEOPLE should have its say and VOTE on this issue. This is the only way to truly get a wide range of public opinion involved. Please remember that you represent THE PEOPLE.

I urge you to make the right decision, and it is about FAIRNESS...providing more time to evaluate such an important topic and consider all aspects, ALL PEOPLE and ways of living.

Our State Motto talks about the Life of the Land being perpetuated in Righteousness. So, lets do the Right thing and consider the FAIRNESS of this bill...because it is OBVIOUSLY NOT FAIR.

Thank you for your genuine consideration on this matter. Please do not take Hawaii down that road of UNFAIRNESS...it will be demeaning to the people and soften our faith in our Legislators.

David D. Ubaldo

1417 Alexander Street #B-1

Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

From:	Dawn OBrien
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:33:46 AM

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

From: Daw <dawnnobrien@yahoo.com>;
To: JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov <JDLtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov>;
Subject: File - Traditional Marriage Vote.docx
Sent: Sun, Oct 27, 2013 5:50:27 PM

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/13
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage. I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process and does not give we, the people, sufficient input into the process.

I am particularly concerned that the religious exemption clauses are so sparse. Priest, pastors and churches are exempted under only very limited circumstances. There is no exemption for religious organizations, charities or fraternal societies, nor are there any exemptions for individuals. I am concerned that my First Amendment rights be protected in the process.

On a personal note, my 7-year old son shared his view on the same sex marriage bill; he stated: "I wish they don't make it pass, because I don't want to marry the same sex." His sharing really gripped my heart and sadden me to think at such a young age is tormented of legalizing "same sex marriage". How many children or let alone maybe even adults will be as bold to share their heart felt views. This bill would be robbing the innocence of our children, grandchildren and all future generations. With such an amendment, again, our freedom of rights under the First Amendment established by our founding forefathers of this great nation will no longer hold it's validity. Has our state government really studied the what the repercussions of passing this bill would have on our judiciary systems with many law suits to follow and the impact of all people now and future generations, and not just with one group? The state of Massachusetts and Canada, who has passed this bill, has had many avoidable lawsuits, with the rights of innocent citizens living under the rights of the First Amendment, were purged and harassed for trying to defend themselves. Please, please, please, do further research so that our freedoms will not be taken away and our children and future generations will live in righteousness as in our state motto: *Ua Mau ke Ea o Ka Aina i ka Pono" - "The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness"* and that it be sustained throughout time.

Finally, since we voted a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples, the only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide.

Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Dean K. Kaya

Dean K. Kaya
95-331 Mahapili Ct #168, Mililani, HI 96789
808-781-5757

Dean Schmucker
183 Ini Iniki
Wailuku HI 96703

SB 1 Testimony

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I recently wrote a letter to the editor of the Maui News, in which I pled the case to bring the issue of same gender marriage to a vote in a constitutional amendment, for the values of the people ought to be reflected in our laws. I have since reconsidered. Indeed, if something is right or wrong, it is right or wrong no matter what public opinion is. That being the case, then, just how might the citizens of this great State of Hawaii make a decision on what is right or wrong?

The 19'Th century writer Hans Christian Andersen tells the tale of an emperor who was duped into believing that he was wearing a fancy suit. In reality, he was wearing nothing at all. In the end, a little boy pointed out the obvious. At the root of this issue before us is worldview, or paradigm. What are we, as human beings? Are we the result of a random process, a mere coincidence? If so, our laws would reflect whatever values seem right to us at the time. On the other hand, if we are created, and are accountable to our Creator, we would want our laws to be compatible with His desire.

Years ago, Darwin published "Origen of Species". Before this, the worldview in western society was predominately Theistic. That is, there was recognition that there is a God, and that we are accountable to Him. After Darwin, this was called into question. 150 years later, Theism is openly mocked. Religion is placed into a subjective box, and is not allowed to speak in the public square. Someone once said that a lie, repeated often enough, will soon have the power of truth. Fellow citizens of Hawaii, I am here to be that little boy who points out the obvious: The emperor has no clothes!

If we look deep into our hearts, in that secret place that we all fear, we all know that we are NOT the product of random chance. We might well aver otherwise publically, but privately, we know that humans are designed by a Creator to whom we will one day give account. Any honest evaluation of the forensic evidence will agree with this conclusion. As for whom that Creator is, and what His expectation of us is, we have been given the Bible, a book for which there is copious evidence of Devine authorship. Because God has granted us freedom, we are free to choose not to believe, but our failure to believe will not change the facts.

Marriage is not, and never will be, a human creation. God created us Male and Female, for the purpose of producing godly children. No human institution can ever change that fact. We would do well to openly acknowledge this.

Respectfully,

Dean Schmucker
Waikapu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: ddement@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:17:47 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/24/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Denny Dement	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: How can so few decide the fate of so many? Especially on such a controversial issue. Let the people vote.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Dear Chairman Hee & Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor,

My greatest, sincere appreciation for your labors of love for our island state!

Without boring you, my secondary point is to ask that you reserve any vote on the Same Sex Marriage Law. I deeply believe this issue is of such a tremendous social impact that it goes far beyond an abbreviated Special Session. It also goes beyond the scope of 77 people deciding for an entire state.

I ask you to please done of two things:

A. Leave the institution of marriage the way we the people defined it in 1998, when we the people were allowed the vote on it.

B. Take the issue back to the citizens of the State and allow us to vote for a clearly-worded constitutional amendment.

Thank you for your time, consideration and aloha!

Dawn O'Brien
Voter & Media Personality
Makiki-McCully-Mo'ili'ili
95.5 FM ~ The Fish Hawai'i

From: di okada
To: JDLTestimony; JUDSStestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: OPPOSITION TO BILL SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:54:20 AM

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

I believe letting the people decide through a constitutional amendment would be fairer.

Thank you for your attention.

Diane Okada
Honolulu, HI 96826

H. THOMAS KAY, JR.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
State Capitol Auditorium

My name is Tom Kay. I am a kamaʻaina attorney. I strongly oppose enacting S.B. 1, the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 in this Second Special Session of the Hawaii State Legislature. Such action will be unconstitutional under Article 1 §23 of the Hawaii Constitution. §23 provides as follows:

"The legislature shall have power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples."

§23 was enacted by the legislature in 1997 as an amendment to the Hawaii Constitution and ratified by 69.2 percent of the voters in 1998. The sole purpose of this constitutional amendment was to reverse the Hawaii Supreme Court decision in the Baehr v. Lewin case in which the court had held that same-sex marriages in Hawaii were constitutional. Following the passage of §23 the Hawaii Supreme Court held, in an unreported decision, that the §23 constitutional marriage amendment validated HRS §572-1 which states that marriage can only be between one man and one woman.

To the 285,671 Hawaii voters out of 412,820 who cast votes in 1998, this meant that by reading constitutional amendment §23 along with the language of HRS §572-1 there could be no legal marriages of same-sex couples in Hawaii.

It also means to the voters today including those of the 285,671 voters still living in Hawaii that any consideration of legalizing marriage of same-sex couples must require an amendment to §23 of the Hawaii Constitution by a vote of the people of Hawaii.

If the Hawaii Legislature in this special session passes the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act two inevitable events will occur:

1. Litigation in both federal and state courts will continue for many years to determine whether the Marriage Act is constitutional before it is ever implemented.
2. There will be an extremely large group of angry Hawaii voters whose right to vote on this major issue was abrogated by current legislators.

The obvious solution to this dilemma is to let the Hawaii voters decide on whether same-sex couples should be allowed to marry under Hawaii law.

From: Don Hughes
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Gay marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:58:28 AM

I am against same sex marriage. It seems that the thought is to get insurance coverage. If that is the case there must be other ways. Marriage is a sacred act and tradition which must be respected.

Aloha Legislators,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed same sex marriage bill. I want to have a right to say what is being taught in public schools. I want to have a right to remove my children from a school that teaches curriculum that is contrary to my beliefs. I want to have a right, as a teacher, to oppose curriculum that is contrary to my beliefs. I want to take my children to church and not have to fear persecution. Please vote NO.

Mahalo,
Dona Ahuna

From:	Don Young
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:08:47 PM

Donald Young
909 Kahauloa Place
Honolulu, HI 96825

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Don Young –--- and I vote!

This question before us has been addressed before. In different forms – but, it's really the same issue. Sometimes it's difficult to sort out the details of what happened some years ago, reconcile them with the question that's now before us, & then – most of all – try to project just how our decisions will affect our future. I, for one, find it disturbing that on an issue which will prove to have far-reaching implications over time, we have had so little opportunity for public input from the voting population.

A few years back, under conditions of extreme noise & pressure (a lot of it from mainland people who came to "help" us out), Hawaii's Civil Union law was enacted in 2011, effective as of January 1, 2012. The rationale was to provide equal State benefits for same-sex partners as were available to heterosexual couples. Sounds, fair enough – but that wasn't the end of it. As of May 2013, only 916 people in Hawaii have taken advantage of civil unions – that's a total of 1832 people - less than 2/10ths of 1% of our total population. Not a very big number - so something else has to be afoot. And it is - less than 2 years later.

We're now being asked to change the more-than-2000-year old definition of

traditional marriage. The reason? - to qualify same-sex couples for Federal benefits, which are denied those in a civil union. But, the wording on this bill has a lot of excess baggage that infringes on our religious freedoms. To top it off, it's not necessary to rush to a decision on this bill, because it's purpose is to provide something already available to same-sex couples. Currently, they can obtain the status of "legally" married by taking a quick round-trip flight to California or Washington State to tie the knot. Problem solved, right?

Not really, because that's not the real agenda of this whole exercise: which is to change our culture, traditions, & even religious beliefs. Hawaii is not the first to be led down this path – just look at Mass. & Canada. What evolved in those places is in store for us. The path we're being led down includes infringement on our religious beliefs & practices (the mission of churches will be severely limited if they're deemed to be public accommodations), massive changes to our educational system (from SSM recognition, to promotion, & to indoctrination); & curtailing freedom of speech (where Bible verses will be viewed as hate speech).

Those of you who attended last Wednesday evening's meeting were briefed on just what is in store for Hawaii if we pass this bill. You say it will never happen in Hawaii – but that's just what they said in Mass. & Canada.

As I stated before, there's no need to pass this bill, never mind rush it through a special session.

Please let the people decide the fate of traditional marriage.

-- Thank you.

From: Leonard Mukai
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Senate Bill 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:32:05 AM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am against legalizing same sex marriage in Hawaii and encourage you to allow the people of Hawaii to decide this important issue. As a father, grandfather, and parent educator, I understand the importance of a father and mother to a child.

Aloha, Dr. Leonard Mukai

From: Patrick Macy
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Support TRADITIONAL marriage
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:09:36 AM

Traditional marriage stabilizes the family and the family is what stabilizes America. Do NOT support same-sex marriage. Our ancestors got us here because they were family oriented. They would roll over in their grave if they could even fathom how far we have digressed from the basic moral values of traditional marriage. Do NOT bring shame upon your ancestors or upon your future posterity.

DR. PATRICK MACY

From: Dylan Payne
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: testimony in opposition to SB 1 relating to equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:29:45 AM

Senator Hee,

I am writing to voice my opposition to SB 1: Relating to equality. I strongly believe that marriage should be defined as being between a man and a woman and that compromising this institution will have dire effects on the moral fiber and society of our great State. I do believe that same sex couples should be afforded the same rights and benefits as heterosexual couples, but same sex unions should not be called marriage.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I hope that the legislature listens to the voice of the people.

Aloha,
Dylan Payne
(808) 276-6881
Lahaina, Maui HI

From: Elisa Nakamura
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:53:41 AM

To: Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Elisa Nakamura, Wahiawa

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Please vote NOT to pass Senate Bill No. 1 Relating to Equality. I submit to you that:

I. This bill is a violation of process. The people gave the Legislature the right to define marriage as between a man and a woman. If my kids come to me and ask me if they can label our mailbox with “Nakamura” they will be in trouble if they go and paint “Bananapants” on it instead. By giving them authority to label “Nakamura” I have not given them authority to change that label. We, the people of Hawaii, did not give you, the Legistlature, the authority to change the definition of marriage. As such, this bill is in direct opposition to the voted on and clear views of the people of Hawaii.

II. The issue of same sex marriage is three different very separate issues. One the one hand it is a word issue. On the other it is a financial issue. The third is a moral issue.

The word issue: The word marriage has long been the label applied to the union between a man and woman or a man and other women. It has never been a label that meant anything else. Homosexual relations have existed since ancient times and across most cultures, but there has always been a different name for that relationship than the one that exists between a man and woman (or women). If the purpose of redefining the word marriage is to give financial rights to those who are in a homosexual committed relationship, then why not give those rights and create a word that means committed homosexual relationship? Your authority under the law is not to rewrite the dictionary is it?

The financial issue: To this issue I would pose a question: Why does what I do with my physical body suddenly give me certain rights that I could not get if I did not perform those actions? If I am a woman living with anyone else and I agree to keep the house and do all the home work while she/she goes and gets a job, why should I have to marry that woman in order to receive the same monetary benefits of a married couple? In essence you are legislating that depending upon what I do behind closed doors, you will allow me to share financial obligations with another person. Making homosexuality or heterosexuality the basis for financial advantage is ridiculous. Why does what I do in the bedroom entitle me to financial advantages? That line of logic does not make sense. Instead let us back up and remember the reason these financial reasons were there in the first place, define them. From there we can decide whether those reasons are still valid and to whom they apply.

The moral issue: The actual effects of this bill, as proven over and over in the United States today, will be to allow the people you are trying to give "rights to", to sue another person for living by the truths dictated by the same Creator that defined my inalienable rights. One only has to look in the news to see that the main impact is to put people out of business who don't agree with what other people are doing behind the bedroom doors. The Creator endowed us with the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Those inalienable rights do NOT include the right to dictate morals to anyone else. In essence, if you pass this bill, whether you intend to allow others to use it to sue someone out of business or not - you cannot deny that this is exactly what many good citizens have already done in our country. You are dictating the morals. That is not one of your or my inalienable rights.

I would like to thank you for your attention as well as your service, diligence and hard work.

Respectfully,

Elisa Nakamura
Wahiawa, Hawaii

From: Elise Hishinuma
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: re: same-sex marriage bill
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 5:07:19 PM

October 23, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regards to the same-sex marriage bill. I am asking as a voter that you, as my representative will hear my voice and represent me and what I believe.

I am asking that you would vote "No" on the same-sex marriage bill because it violates our democratic rights as citizens of the United States of America. We the people of the United States have been blessed abundantly with freedoms that many countries only dream of having. Among those are the freedoms of speech and of religion. If the same-sex marriage bill is passed, those freedoms that we hold hold dear will be stripped away without our voices being heard.

I am asking that you vote "No" to the same-sex marriage bill to protect our freedom of speech. With the bill quickly being pushed through the special session, Hawaii's people are not being given the opportunity to weigh in their opinions. We the people, want to have a voice in such a huge, fundamental shift in our state, in our schools, in our churches, and in our society. The special session is denying us those rights and freedoms that our forefathers fought so hard to grant our country with. Please also take into consideration that Hawaii is the only state rushing into the special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision. If this is truly a dire need, why haven't the other 34 states that do not permit same-sex marriage done so as well? Is a 5 day session really enough time to discuss, clarify, and put into law one of the most controversial issues that we face today?

My church currently meets in a public school. If this bill is passed, we would be legally obligated to sanction a same-sex marriage if it was requested, even though our faith does not support this. I ask that you would represent not only a portion of the people of Hawaii, but all of us. Please be my voice and also speak out for those of us who's freedoms—that this country was founded on—are being dismissed.

Thank you for taking time out of your day to hear my voice, but please don't just dismiss what I have brought before you. Please represent me and the people of Hawaii and what we believe.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Elise Hishinuma

--

Elise M. Hishinuma
3rd Grade Teacher
Windward Nazarene Academy
ehishinuma@windwardnazarene.com
808-235-8787

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From: Eliza (Ellie) Warren
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Against same-sex marriage bill
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:37:18 AM

I am against the same-sex marriage bill. I believe that same-sex marriage is not natural, right, nor salubrious on either the individual level or the society level. I believe marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God, and study after study has shown overwhelmingly that the traditional family (wife, husband, children) is better for the children and for society's structure in general.

October 24, 2013

TO: The State of Hawaii
Honorable Governor Abercrombie
Members of the House of Representatives
Members of the Senate

RE: Special Legislative Session
SB1

As elected officials of the State of Hawaii, I sincerely appeal to you all that you VOTE NO on Senate Bill 1 in regards to allowing Same-Sex Marriage in the State of Hawaii. I am adamantly opposed to the passage of this Bill.

As an educator with the Department of Education for over 20 years, I believe that I have the democratic right to determine what is taught in regards to character education and the curriculum in the classroom. I should be allowed the freedom to choose materials pertain to what I teach which is not to be decided upon by a certain segment of society. I have the right to Academic Freedom and my right to do so will be impinged upon if I am forced to teach sexuality in the classroom and Same Sex Marriage to children. Allowing Same Sex marriage will affect the educational system and will dictate that I teach sexuality in the classroom, attend workshops and trainings which I believe are solely the responsibility of the parents.

Passage of this bill violates my rights as an educator and my rights to Academic Freedom. For the Sake of our children, Vote NO on Senate Bill 1.

Thank you for allowing my to submit my testimony

Elizabeth Kong
School Counselor
Department of Education

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: elliekapihe@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (In Person)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:43:29 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Ellie	Windward Missionary Church	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium Re: Strong Opposition of SB1 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders. I strongly oppose the legislation and indoctrination of a one group's beliefs and lifestyle over any group of people. I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. Respectfully, Ellie Kapihe Pastor of Windward Missionary Church

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	eblessing02@hawaiiantel.net
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:35:00 PM
Attachments:	testimony-sb1.pages

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Emi Ayau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please vote NO. Let the people decide on this important issue. You can already see negative effects of Same-Sex marriage in other states. Let's not have those problems here.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: Emiko Baker
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:16:34 AM

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

It is my understanding that this Same-Sex Marriage Legislation is to provide equality for those that are of same sex gender and it is an honorable action by the Governor to propose this bill to consider their needs since these individuals are due recognition and respect. However, by passing this bill there will be extreme serious, and disturbing and possible irreversible damages that will impact every single person in Hawaii, especially if this bill becomes a law without any type of amendments. I am even questioning whether 5 days will allow for changes to be proposed and agreed upon.

If this bill becomes law, it will discriminate those that run religious organizations because most of the churches will not be exempt under the current language of the bill if they refuse to officiate marriages. They will be in violation of this new law and will be forced to go to court to fight for their Constitutional rights which the Supreme Law of the Land says, and I quote " Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech…" Religious sectors will deemed "discriminatory" and will be "forced" to comply under this new law, even though this Bill appears to address the protection of these organizations under section 572-G, but in fact, it deceives the public to believe that religious organizations will be protected.

Another group of citizens that this Bill will affect: the educators, the parents of children and children of all ages. There are reports already that indicate actual impacts in the states that have legalized same-sex marriages, and there are also potential negative ramifications involved once at a state passes a law to legalize same-sex marriages.

There has been reports in different parts of the nation and in our neighboring country that speeches by teachers, students, and counselors have been increasingly being censored and there has been drastic altering of the children's curriculum which includes very graphic materials that the teachers will be forced to teach and finally, schools will be REQUIRED (forced) to be assisted by GLSEN organization to form Gay/Straight Alliances /clubs on campus. Reports indicate that parents will not have a say in what will be taught to their children, and given, in fact no notice will not be given to parents or to opt out. LGBT (lesbian, gay,bisexual, and transgender) teachings (indoctrination) will also be introduced. Private and religious schools will eventually have no say and will also be forced to comply.

Well-qualified school counselors, administrators, and teachers refusing to comply will be fired or disciplined/suspended. These new curriculum will promote acceptance and normalization of these behaviors and will be under the disguise of anti-bullying or "discriminatory harassment." Parents will not have a say and may even be imprisoned for expressing their views and requesting for opting out their children when these lessons are taught.

I work in the schools where this will possibly take place once this bill becomes law and it will definitely impact all the teachers I work with, the children I see everyday and each of those parents that pick up their children from school. I, myself, will have to rethink about my employment in the education system.

Please seriously consider these potential ramifications for every person in this state that you personally made a choice to affect should you support this Bill.

I would like you to consider killing this bill since there are current measures that are being considered for the regular sessions. At that time, a more fair consideration for the rest of the residents of Hawaii can be considered and that all voices can be heard to develop a more thoughtful and constitutional-based bill can be introduced.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this most important piece of legislation.

Emiko Baker

From: Emily Maeda
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Strong Opposition of SB 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 11:50:35 PM

Clayton Hee, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB 1.

I am asking that you would let the people of Hawaii decide on this issue of marriage. I believe that this special session does not give the people of Hawaii the opportunity to let their voice be heard on this issue.

I am a young adult and am writing this because I am concerned about my future keiki and what they will be learning in their public school curriculum if this same sex marriage bill is passed. I am getting married in December and am looking forward to having children and raising them the way I believe is correct. However, if this bill is passed, the public school system will enforce curriculum that I do not agree with.

There are documented incidences where parents are harassed because they have a difficult time with the curriculum that their children are being subjected to. Hawaii's public school system will change, Governor Abercrombie has assured us of this.

My fiancé is a teacher and I am a case manager. We will not have the financial freedoms to pay for a private school education for our future children so that they can be exempt from the promotion of homosexual relationships. I also will not have the ability to home school my children, as I need to provide financially as well.

As you can see, this is an extremely important issue that will have dramatic effects. More time is needed for further discussion of this bill. The determination of this bill is being rushed into a one-week decision, while the institution of traditional marriage has been around for thousands of years. Please give us, the people of Hawaii, the chance and time to have a say in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Emily Maeda

(Honolulu, HI 96822)

From: Emmons Connell
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 6:41:17 PM

Dear Legislators,

God is love. God wants ALL people to come to Him in faith and believe that His Son Jesus Christ is the Savior of all the world. Once God's Holy Spirit works in your heart to repent and believe this, you become one of his children. Out of thankfulness you do what God, who is a just God, wants you to do, as in, follow His rules joyfully. God's rules become your rules.
The bill as read condones homosexual acts in direct opposition to God's rules!
How can I go against my God?
Please vote NO on Same Sex Marriage.
Thanks for your time and attention.

Emmons and Mary Connell
208 Hoohale Place
Kihei HI 96753
875-1267

From: Eric Keawe
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Opposition on Same Sex Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:54:49 AM

I would like to express my opinion regarding this up coming special session regarding the issue of same sex marriage. I would like to ask you to oppose the legalization of same sex marriage in the state of Hawaii for the following reasons:

1) It's not natural
2) The destruction of the family.
    a. Same sex marriage does not produce children
    b. Same sex marriage purposes is not an equality issue, it is a moral and physical issue.
    c. Same sex marriage is selfish for its own intent and purpose not thinking about the future of the world.
3) Creates the loss of freedom to choose for the people.
    a. Religion
    b. Education
    c. Welfare

I have listed what I believe to be core purposes of my belief and many others through out our state. I plead for your attention and ask for your support to reject this proposal to legalize same sex marriage in our state of Hawaii. For the sake of my children, grandchildren and posterity to follow.

Regards,

Eric K. Keawe

2283 Tantalus Drive

Honolulu, HI 96813

Papakolea Community Member

S District 13

R District 24

From:	Eric Marlowe
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	Opposition to Bill SB1
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:40:32 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to this being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Eric-Jon Keawe Marlowe

Laie, HI 96762

From: Erin Hoff
To: JUDSStestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov; JDLTestimony
Subject: Fwd: Bill SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:29:27 AM

Aloha,

I would testify in person, but I am unable to make it to Honolulu during the special session because of its limited and exclusive nature.

I am extremely concerned about the bill up for review attempting to redefine marriage in Hawai'i. In an effort to bring marital rights to parties, this piece bill is completely inadequate to maintain religious freedom here in Hawai'i. You cannot successful support equality by promoting the rights of one group (gays) and cutting off the rights of another (religious institutions).

Please, vote NO on this piece of legislation! Please, at the least, re-word the bill to protect religious freedom. It is not fair to require all religious leaders and buildings to be available to perform same-sex marriages with impending fines accompanying dis-action. That will force hundreds of residents to act against their personal beliefs, affecting their spirituality and their relationships with God and the community.

We should ALL be able to participate in and uphold marriage in the ways that we see fit. Religious institutions should be able to perform marriages by their own leaders in their own buildings for their followers in the manner that they see proper and correct. No one else, regardless or religious affiliation or sexual orientation or political stance, should be allowed to infringe upon the constitutional right of religious freedom, which was one of the major proponents of the establishment of the American country. EVERYONE deserves to live peaceful lives where they are protected and respected.

Please, consider the lives and rights off ALL of your state's residents before approving a bill which, in its current wording, will severely affect and damage the lives of many people in Hawai'i.

The definition of marriage is essential to the beliefs of many religions and people of faith. If marriage is legally redefined to include same-sex couples,
enormous legal and social pressure will mount against churches and religious people who believe in the traditional definition of marriage. I am one of these people. I have had a variety of gay friends throughout my life. Although I don't agree with their lifestyle, I still respect them and love them. And they have shown me the same courtesy. We are able to form relationships beyond our societal opinions. We both are entitled to our opinions and have the right to belief and live in ways that we see fit. I expect that same courtesy from my government! Bill SB1 is not by or for the people!

Schools will teach children the new definition of marriage and correct or ostracize children who openly disagree based on their family's religious beliefs.
Lawsuits will be brought against individuals, small businesses, marriage counselors, and even some churches and their related organizations (including educational and charitable institutions) that refuse to support same-sex marriages on religious conscience grounds. Religious groups that provide family-related services, such as adoption, will be stripped of their State licenses for being unwilling to treat same-sex marriages as equal to traditional marriages.
Society will increasingly view and treat those who support traditional marriage for religious reasons as bigoted or ignorant.

Please, protect me as you strive to protect my homosexual brothers and sisters. We ALL deserve it!

-Erin Hoff

From: Estrelita Castro
To: JDLTestimony; JUDSStestimonry@capitol.hawaii.com
Cc: ever2140@yahoo.com
Subject: My Testimony
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:34:46 PM

Testimony of
Estrelita T. CASTRO

I am a registered voter of the State of Hawaii, a mother, a grandmother, a Christian, a law abiding citizen of this state and the United States of America. I am here because:

Number 1) I am deeply concerned about the ramification of this gay-rights bill or any similar legislation that forces ordinary citizens to become criminals if they refuse to obey orders that go against their moral principles. Records show states and countries where gay-rights bill are implemented, many of their ordinary citizens have been fined and criminalized when they have tried to stay within their personal beliefs and refuse to obey laws that go contrary to their conscience.

Number 2) I am concerned about the legacy our generation leaves behind for the keikis of these islands, this beautiful state of ours, as well as the whole United States of America. It is not about us, it is about the generation we leave behind. Keikis have the right to be protected and shielded. We do not have to have sex taught them at and early age as early as kindergarten. We were not robbed of our childhood innocence. The generation before us assured us of that. Who are we to do rob our grandchildren of the same safety precautions our parents and grandparents gave us?

As members of the legislature you were voted in to represent the ordinary people of these islands. I also think you are to protect the rights of our mo'opunas as well.
Most of you remember your childhood because our schools were so different then. We respected our parents, the flag, our country. Those are legacies that are being eroded by this

cancerous idea that gays have rights that take precedence over the rights of our children. OUR CHILDREN comes first before their rights. OUR CHILDREN are not 3rd class citizens that they are to be put in harms way.

I am deeply concerned that my grandchildren will have to leave in fear of pedophiles who have as I speak are trying to push legislation to protect their sexual preferences. It is unconscionable that you would not protect our children and protect pedophiles.

Please ladies and gentlemen, I beg of you protect our children. Do what is PONO!

From:	Faith Wright
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:15:41 PM
Attachments:	page1image46184.png page1image46268.png page1image46604.png page1image46688.png page1image46772.png page1image46856.png

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Clayton Hee, chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My Name is Faith Wright. I live at 54-225 Hauula Homestead Rd, Hauula, HI 96717.

I am in Opposition to SB1 relating to equality. This bill has everything to do with my freedom of religion. I oppose YOU deciding that marriage between a man and a woman is some afterthought and should be changed because a few say so. The people have spoken again and again relating to this issue. The government (YOU)) as elected officials were not put in to do as you please!! The fact that this is trying to be bullied through judicial process shows that in fact what I speak is the truth!! Please know that I will not vote for anyone who votes for this bill.

Faith Wright

Voter!!!!

Sent from my iPad

From: Farina McCarthy-Stonex
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: To the Committee on Judiciary and Labor (Related to Equal Rights)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:52:30 AM

Dear Sir,
I wish to testify that marriage is ordained of God and that marriage is between a man and a woman. This country was founded on religious principles that believed in the sanctity of marriage.

I am taking this opportunity to have my voice heard too. The current language in the new Senate draft bill does not grant adequate protections against lawsuits and other litigation for religious entities and their followers. This bill does not protect organizations related to or controlled by religious organizations, nor does it protect such organizations with respect to the celebrations or promotions of marriage against their religious beliefs. Furthermore, Religious groups must continue to have the freedom to choose how their facilities and buildings may be used, and that they should not come under or enforced to be under "public" facility. Churches offer shelter to the poor and needy and sustain our citizens in their time of need through sermon, support and love.
For the Governor to introduce legislature without allowing the people to vote and voice their opinion is unfair. e. g. (According to Governor Abercrombie's FAQ on his website, this bill was "based on a bill that was introduced in the Legislature this past session (S.B. No. 1369), which has been updated." SB 1360 did not receive a single hearing during standard session.

Also the Governor has set this special session at a minimum amount of days allowed by law. As a result, there will be only one hearing for the House and Senate each for people to testify. It severely limits the general public the opportunity to voice their concerns.
After the passing of the 1996 Defense Against Marriage Act, Hawaii adopted a Constitutional Amendment in 1998 that gave the legislature power to reserve marriage as between a man and a woman. For an issue that would impact so many people, organizations and culture it is important to let the people decide.

Sincerely,
Farina McCarthy-Stonex

From: Mom
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Special Session - Gay Marriage Bill
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:01:26 PM

I was born and raised in Hawaii and am 66 years old. I want you to know that I and my family are AGAINST you approving this bill. The people of Hawaii has already spoken and voted back in 1998 that MARRIAGE SHOULD BE BETWEEN ONE AND ONE WOMAN!

I believe that what the Governor has done and what some of those in the legislature intend to do does not take the majority of Hawaii's citizens and our voices into consideration, but you are only considering YOUR OWN PERSONAL preferences/choices. May God, Who created the heavens and the earth, HELP US! The PEOPLE OF HAWAII VOTED each one of you into office to REPRESENT US, THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII! TRUTHFULLY, are you representing the majority of Hawaii's people when you are voting for this bill?

I have read the repercussions that's now affecting the State of Massachusetts. I am asking you to NOT pass this bill until you have made your studies as to how the passing of this bill will affect our citizens, churches, businesses and most of all, our children. Please... DO NOT VOTE with a BLIND MIND!

Mahalo for your consideration,

Felisa Miner
94-302 Paiwa St., P611
Waipahu, HI 96797

Oct 23, 2013

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marriage because Same Sex Marriage violates Chinese Tradition.

American Chinese are very serious about family. We tell the youth that taking care the elderlies in the family is their duty. We finance businesses through family. We borrow money to buy properties through family. We obtain the best education through family.

We know from our hearts that we need love from father and mother, so we apply the same to others. Our children need love from their father and mother as we do.

Same Sex Marriage bill is going to destroy Chinese tradition. We want our local boys and girls know that rearing family biologically is the best. We want to give the best to our future.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: fia.emerson@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:16:58 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/24/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Fia Emerson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I do not support this bill. It seeks to impose alternative lifestyles in public places which lifestyles I do not wan my children to be exposed or taught in schools. Trust when I say this I this bill goes through and alternative lifestyles are being taught in curriculum that I will remove my kids from the public education system. I know many who hold the same values as me would not hesitate to do the same. Senator Hee, I am telling you as a citizen in the district that you represent that I do not want you to vote for this bill. Let the people vote on it.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From:	Frances Nojiri
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:06:32 PM
Attachments:	image006.png

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

First of all, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to voice my opposition to SB1 relating to equality.

Reasons for my opposition:

1. It violates what I believe that God's law is the highest law in the land and it clearly states that marriage is between a man and a woman.
2. Although we don't have children, I am concern of the welfare and moral values of children of this generation and of the generations to come. Passing of this bill would cause instability and deterioration of families due to mixed-liberal teachings taught and instilled in young minds not knowing any better which would cause confusion and chaos in families and trigger an automatic negative effect in Hawaii.
3. This bill does not protect small business owners rights/freedom of choice due to conscious sake to be able to refuse to provide same-sex marriage services without the fear of losing their businesses.
4. This bill does not protect State/Government workers rights/freedom of choice due to conscious sake to be able to refuse to provide same-sex marriage services without the fear of losing their jobs.
5. This bill does not protect teachers rights/freedom of choice due to conscious sake to refuse to teach students related topics of same-sex marriage without the fear of losing their jobs.

Since this is a highly sensitive and controversial bill, I plead with you: **LET THE VOTERS/PEOPLE of HAWAII VOTE ON IT, NOT THE LEGISLATORS**. Our unified goal should be what would be best for the people of Hawaii, and not copycat or to be like other states. So please sow what would be best for the people so that our today and tomorrows will be a harvest of 'PONO'. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Nojiri
Registered Voter/Concerned Citizen

Hawaii State Motto

Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono

Translation: The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness

From:	Gary Langley
To:	JDLTestimony; JUDSStestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Cc:	Rep. K. Mark Takai; Rep. Cindy Evans; Rep. Jo Jordan; Rep. John Mizuno; Rep. Calvin Say; Rep. Justin Woodson; Rep. Joseph Souki; Rep. Angus McKelvey; Rep. Derek Kawakami; Rep. Linda Ichiyama; Rep. Mark Hashem; Rep. Mele Carroll; Rep. Sylvia Luke; Rep. Takashi Ohno; Rep. Tom Brower; Sen. Mike Gabbard; Rep. Ken Ito
Subject:	*****SPAM***** TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 11:36:00 AM

Aloha:

As a 30+ year resident of Hawaii and community influencer, I am deeply concerned about the unintended outcomes that have historically followed such legislation in other states. I am sure that those who have proposed this legislation have done so with the best of intentions, but in an attempt to provide a remedy for a miniscule percentage of people in Hawaii they are potentially imposing massive burdens upon the overwhelming majority of us.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 1 for the following reasons:

(1) Any legal and/or financial inequities remaining since the passing of the Civil Unions bill can easily be addressed by amendments to that law WITHOUT redefining marriage.

(2) This is a divisive issue that should be decided by a plebiscite, not by political maneuvering.

(3) In attempting to provide some measure of protection for religious groups who have moral and theological objections to same-gender marriage the State of Hawaii is overstepping its Constitutional authority — the alleged protections for churches state that. "**unless a religious organization allows use of its facilities or grounds by the general public for weddings for a profit, such organization shall not be required to make its facilities or grounds available for solemnization of any marriage celebration**." That wording puts the State in the untenable position of defining who/what constitutes a church, and is based upon endorsement of a single understanding of church that does not reflect the latest scholarship and 21st Century church models.

I am both a Pastor and Presiding Bishop for my church denomination in Hawaii and the Republic of Kiribati. I earned a Masters degree in Global Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary, and my definition of church includes both the "***church assembled***" (the weekly gatherings of believers we typically call 'going to church', in which citizens sing and pray together, encourage one another and learn about their faith), which leads to the '***church dispersed***" — the individual members of the church living out their faith in their political decisions, business ethics and personal relationships in their everyday lives. The **CHURCH DISPERSED** is individual, personal and every bit as much 'the church' as the church assembled, yet the proposed law provides NO protection for the church dispersed, and little protection for the church assembled.

A local florist, baker, photographer or other service provider who is a devout believer is, in fact, the **CHURCH DISPERSED** and is provided NO legal protection from being forced to violate their deeply held moral and theological stand against same-gender marriage, and they will be forced into situations that will clearly be a violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, which prohibits the federal government from making a law "respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof". The Hawaii State Constitution mirrors that: **No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of**

religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof… Any State law "prohibiting the free exercise" of a person's faith as part of the church dispersed is inherently unconstitutional.

The state clearly has no understanding of contemporary missional church models and bases their understanding only upon models like the Roman Catholic, a highly hierarchal, institutional church.

Respectfully,

Gary R. Langley
Presiding Bishop
Church of God of Prophecy
Hawai'i and the Republic of Kiribati

45-416 Kamehameha Highway
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Georgialynn M Dainard
73-1299 Hiolani Street
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

October 25, 2013

Honorable Senators and Representatives
27th Legislature 2013
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Ref: Testimony Opposed to SB1 – Marriage Equity

Dear Sirs and Madame's:

Thank you for taking time to review my testimony.

There are two issues that most concern me with the Marriage Equity SB1:

1. The current language in SB1 is ambiguous and unclear insofar as guaranteed protection for the church to express their religious freedom in their right to refuse to solemnize marriage of the same sex. Specifically, the language contained in 572-G (C) appears to contradict what is stated in 572-F through 572-G (b).

   The purpose of legalizing same sex marriage is to afford this people group access to the benefits, rights and dignity afforded to marriages of the opposite sex. What then becomes of the generations of believers who gather to express their own religious freedom? For example, I believe marriage is between one man and one woman and I belong to a religious sect who fosters the same belief.

   Why then would our faith and pastor be penalized for refusing to solemnize a same sex marriage? Where is the expression of freedom for what the church believes?

   It would appear the 5.1% GBLT population in the State of Hawaii by the standard above would enjoy greater civil rights than the church. Protection of the church and its right to celebrate religious freedom without fear of penalty, legal challenges or persecution is paramount.

2. The second pressing issue is the future effect of Marriage Equity in Hawaii nine years down the road or fast forward to 2022. Certainly not many living in Massachusetts in 2004 could envision the effect of legalizing same sex marriage would have on public schools, health and hospitals, the court system, law enforcement, public access etc.

   The broad brush of the civil rights act empowered by the legalization of same sex marriage impacted the way of life in Massachusetts for children, adults, businesses and beyond. Attached is a commentary by Brian Camenker as to the Massachusetts experience since same sex marriage was legalized in 2004.

   I pray you will take time to read his commentary and then ask yourself if this is the future you envisioned for your keiki, grand keiki or great grand keiki. Is this the hostility you want for our Hawaii? At what age is innocence lost? Is it the age when the DOE force feeds our keiki homosexuality is normal? Or is it the age when our keiki are forced to learn in school about oral and anal sex or sex toys used to gratify their partner?

   I am certain there are good and decent GBLT citizens who will respect and aloha the rights of others. But, there exists the fringe element in any society who will use the legalization of same sex marriage to work the civil rights angle for their own selfish motives.

   My plea is simple, 1) let the people vote; 2) search your heart is this really the legacy the 2013 Legislature wants to leave for the future keiki o ka aina; and 3) where will the money come from to implement the many challenges our State will face when same sex marriage is legalized?

Aloha and God Speed in your deliberations,

Georgialynn Dainard
Ordinary Citizen of the Aina

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: gpshima@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:34:56 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Glenn Shimabukuro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights Good morning, Chairman Senator Hee and senate committee members of the Judiciary and Labor committee, My name is Glenn Shimabukuro, a 66 year old registered voter, residing at 98-500-4 Kaonohi St., Aiea, HI 96701. I want to thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony opposing this legislation. I believe this legislation should not be considered for approval until further deliberation and analysis be done. The public has not been given the opportunity to hear, digest, review and understand the full implication of this proposal. I am concerned that this proposal is being "rushed" without much public analysis. I believe there are dire consequences for businesses, education, and health care related matters that have not been properly addressed or made known to the public. May I urge you to vote NO to the passage of this legislation. Thank you. Respectfully submitted by, Glenn Shimabukuro 98-500-4 Kaonohi St. Aiea, HI 96701

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: hcarmody@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:33:20 AM
Attachments: Testimony SSM.pages

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Harriet Carmody	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please allow ALL voters the consideration to individually vote on this issue, which will highly impact them.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: Heidi Lacsina
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Opposed to Same Sex Marriage Bill
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:31:07 PM

Heidi Ka'aihue-Lacsina

Date: October 28th, 2013

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for the opportunity to hear my voice. I stand today opposed to this bill and its so-called marriage equality, to give the rights to those of same sex gender to marry is one thing but to take the rights of others is another thing, your SB 1 gives no protection to faith based business, churches or facilities, that if this bill passes, "as is," then churches, local faith based business and facilities will be targeted by those who oppose our belief. We are asked to accept their sexual preferences but when we stand up for our faith and morals we are cussed at, name called, and worse sued for discrimination and our First Amendment Rights are thrown out as if they never existed, I thought that this was America a country built upon Faith.

All I ask is that you consider revisiting the exemptions listed for the protection of faith based facilities and grounds as well as small businesses, to call this bill equal or equality, then it better balance out for ALL the people who call Hawaii home, not just a few, for less then 916 civil unions couples, as of 2 years ago when Governor Abercrombie signed it into law, are living in Hawaii out of 1.4 million people, so less then 1/5 of 1% of the people who live in Hawaii will benefit from this bill, while those of us who are of faith must defend our business, churches and facilities from being put out of service, a service that benefits the communities in which they operate. I find it rather disgusting to think that our Hawaii has come to this, that our culture has shifted so badly that we who call Hawaii home will feel imprisoned once again, to accept someone else's sexual preference when they are not willing to accept my freedom to live my life with the faith I have in Jesus Christ, this just no can.

In closing, I ask that you would take a look at what's happening in the other states that have passed this type of bill, for ours is the worse one written in regards to religious exemptions for pastors and clergy, for churches and their grounds, for facilities and small businesses, not to mention the effect it will have on our keiki of Hawaii if this bill passes and there is no protection as to what is taught in the public schools. I hope that you, as our Representatives and Senators, would slow it down long enough to really listen to the people and make the right choices that would benefit ALL of the people of Hawaii, not just a few, and if that's not possible then put it on the ballot and let the people vote!

Heidi Ka'aihue-Lacsina

From: Herbert R Franco Jr
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:16:53 PM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

First of all I would like to thank you for the selfless service you give to our community that we don't see and that goes on behind the scenes as representing your constituents as best as can. I would not wish to be in your shoes as you have a heavy burden to weigh and appreciate all that you do! Although we don't agree at times I respect the office and know that this was the will of the people as the majority voted in favor of electing you and as an elected official you know that it should always be the will of the people.

At this time I wish to express my complete dissatisfaction on the upcoming Special Session that the Governor has called for on same Sex marriage. The bottom line is this: why does Governor Neil Abercrombie feel that something as critical as this would be decided without giving the people a chance to vote? Why should our right to vote be taken away? Why does the Governor think that this is something that the people should have no choice with or given no choice to express our voices? His answers to these questions were posted online and I had a chance to review his answers. I do not believe that there is complete truth to everything that he said in those answers and frankly I do not even know if he even answered the questions that were being asked. All I am asking is a chance to use my vote as it is my right as a citizen of this state and of this country. Many have given their very lives to preserve these rights for all of us and now Neil Abercrombie believes he can change all of that in five days? It is wrong. .it is deceitful..it is manipulative. .and it is unconstitutional. I ask that you take my testimony into consideration and the testimony of thousands of others who share the same thoughts. I am extremely concerned if this bill passes, of the detrimental ramifications this will cause. And the ripple effect will be greater than you or I can imagine. .even long after you and I are gone. This will hinder generations to come and the Hawaii that you and I were raised in and have grown to love will be gone forever and your posterity will have nobody but us to thank. Please take these testimonies into consideration as you make your decision in this very critical matter. May God guide you to do what is right.

Respectfully,

Herbert R. Franco Jr.
92-984 Panana Street #11
Kapolei. Hawaii 96707
908-723-0580

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marraige because of our heartfelt concern and compassion for the future of our state. I concern over the physical, mental and emotional problems that will beset those who choose the homosexual lifestyle, and I object to what this will do to our community, my children and to my traditional family life. Evidence clearly show that children must be raised in a traditional family environment to thrive and to grow.

In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

From:	Ivy Stiefvater
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Opposing Senate Bill 1
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 7:51:41 PM

To Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Ivy Stiefvater and I oppose the Senate Bill 1. I am against this Bill because it is against my beliefs. I am opposed to the concept of same sex marriage. I believe that marriage should only be between a man and a woman. We are heading toward Soddom and Gomorrah and I do not want my son to grow up in such an environment.

Thank you,
Ivy Stiefvater
56-363 Kekauoha St
Kahuku, HI 96731

From: J. Mickey Damerell, DDS, MS
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Against Same Sex Marriage Law
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:36:11 AM

J. Mickey Damerell DDS, MS
Orthodontics
Against

From: J. Mickey Damerell, DDS, MS
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Against Same Sex Marriage Law
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:36:11 AM

J. Mickey Damerell DDS, MS
Orthodontics
Against

From: Jacob Chung Jr.
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Oppose Same-Sex Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:39:53 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Aloha, my name is Jacob Chung. I'm native Hawaiian and I oppose same-sex marriage.

I find it troubling that the voices of the people of Hawaii are not being heard, instead outsiders from the mainland are greatly influencing our governing officials.

This is not about our local families or people of our state who choose this lifestyle. This is about an outside organization that is literally bullying it's way into our islands through the influencing of our government, forcing us to accept same-sex marriage as normal. And because of this law, schools will be teaching that this is a normal lifestyle going against everything I believe, and causing so much confusion.

In 1998 the people voted yes to traditional marriage. The way it was worded gave us only two options: either we were for SSM, or if we were against it we would allow the legislature to redefine it at a later date. Since it was written on the ballot this way, the people decided on the lesser of two evils.

All of you were elected by the people to be our voice. Something of this magnitude shouldn't be decided by 52 people. Put it to a vote and let the people decide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jacob Chung
98-1453 F Kaahumanu Street
Aiea, Hawaii, 96701

From: Jackie Franco
To: JDLTestimony; francoj001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:45:21 PM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I wish to express my complete dissatisfaction on the upcoming Special Session that the Governor has called fo on same Sex marriage. The bottom line is this: why does Neil Abercrombie feel that something as critical as this would be decided without giving the people a chance to vote? Why should our right to vote be taken away? Why does the Governor think that this is something that the people should have no choice with or given no choice to express our voices? His answers to these questions were posted online and I had a chance to review his answers. I do not believe that there is complete truth to everything that he said in those answers and frankly I do not even know if he even answered the questions that were being asked. All I am asking is a chance to use my vote as it is my right as a citizen of this state and of this country. Many have given their very lives to preserve these rights for all of us and now Neil Abercrombie believes he can change all of that in five days? It is wrong. .it is deceitful..it is manipulative. .and it is unconstitutional. I ask that you take my testimony into consideration and the testimony of thousands of others who share the same thoughts. I am extremely concerned if this bill passes, of the detrimental ramifications this will cause. And the ripple effect will be greater than you or I can imagine. .even long after you and I are gone. This will hinder generations to come and the Hawaii that you and I were raised in and have grown to love will be gone forever and your posterity will have nobody but you to thank. Please take these testimonies into consideration as you make your decision in this very critical matter. May God guide you to do what is right.

Respectfully,

Jacquelyn Franco
92-984 Panana Street #11
Kapolei. Hawaii 96707
908-723-0579

From:	James & Lorrie Roller
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	SB1: Opposition to Same Sex Marriage
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:13:22 AM

Our names are James and Lorrie Roller, and we want to reach out to you to express our serious concerns about the upcoming bill for same-sex marriage. We implore you to read the research from the state of Massachuetts detailing the harm same sex marriage has created since legalized. There have been negative impacts in the public schools, public health, hospitals, domestic violence, business and employment, adoption, First Amendment violations such as freedom of religion and speech and of course within the families themselves. We are charged with protecting our children and preserving their futures. Destroying the nucleus of the family unit and redefining an institution that is necessary to the rearing of healthy and productive children is what same sex marriage would bring to Hawaii, and you will have that legacy on your watch. We urgently, and strongly ask you to reconsider your position on this issue and vote NO. Additionally we request that a “roll call” vote be taken. Thank you for your continued public service.

From:	James Arcate
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:55:25 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

A lot of men and women get married to each other in civil marriage ceremonies. This is a lot like Civil Unions in Hawaii, where no religious institution is required to perform or recognize them.

So simply amend Hawaii's Civil Unions Law to confer the benefits of marriage without using the word "marriage".

This approach would eliminate the need for all to agree that marriage is between a man and a woman.

James R. Arcate
3447 Pipa Place
Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 988 9713

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Jamilah Hernandez, I reside at 1331 Ala Kapuna Street. I am in opposition to the SB 1 Bill (Same sex marriage). I have been living in Hawaii for more than eight years now. I am a veteran and now call Hawaii home for my children and I. I am not a local, but my children have grown up here and my youngest son Kaeo was born here. They love Hawaii and love growing up here. I am a registered voter here in Hawaii, and I would like to personally thank Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, whom I voted for, for all his hard work and dedication for representing the people in District 31. I am so happy that some of our representatives are listening to the people and trying to kill this Bill. I can 't believe some of our representatives are not listening to the voice of the people. If this Bill is passed it will greatly affect many of the hard working families here in Hawaii. This Bill will violate the 1st Ammendment Rights of the people of District 31. I have spoken to many of my friends and other mothers in this community and they all feel the same way. We all feel this Bill will have a negative affect on this community. I hope that other representatives realize how many people really don't want this bill passed. Many families don't really have the time to write letters and make calls to the different Representatives because they are working long hours and just don't have the time. So I am writing on the behalf of all these other families that I have spoken to personally and hoping that all of the Representatives will try and get out and speak to the people. Thank you for all you do for the community and I hope as you decide on this Bill you will keep all the keiki in mind and what the future will be for them.

Jamilah Hernandez

From: Jane Noe
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: *****SPAM***** Against Same Sex marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:50:00 AM

I am for the building up and support of the traditional family structure which has been in decline these past 20 years due to divorce, separation, etc. Our society will eventually pay for it.
The people of Hawaii voted against same sex marriage a few years ago. Why has the Governor gone against the wishes of the people who voted for him?
Thank you. Jane Noe

From: Janell Yim
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: OPPOSITION TO SB1 The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 12:11:28 PM

JANELL YIM
3270 PAWAINA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96822

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am
I will not be present at the hearing, therefore; I am submitting my written testimony
*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,
I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Tolerance, Same-Sex Marriage and Religious Freedom.

Dallin H. Oaks, a former Utah Supreme Court Judge, in 2013 awarded the prestigious Canterbury Medal for his lifetime of service in promoting the cause of religious freedom and presently a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints stated.
'Those who favor homosexual marriage contend that “tolerance” demands that they be given the same right to marry as heterosexual couples
Tolerance obviously requires a non-contentious manner of relating toward one another’s differences. But tolerance does not require abandoning one’s standards or one’s opinions on political or public policy choices. Tolerance is a way of reacting to diversity, not a command to insulate it from examination.
The Church does not condone abusive treatment of others and encourages its members to treat all people with respect. However, speaking out against practices with which the Church disagrees on moral grounds – including same-sex marriage – does not constitute abuse or the frequently misused term “hate speech.”.. But today’s politically palatable definition insists that unless one accepts the "sin" he does not tolerate the "sinner". We can express genuine love and friendship for the homosexual family member or friend without accepting the practice of homosexuality or any re-definition of marriage.
Legalizing same-sex marriage will affect a wide spectrum of government activities and policies. Once a state government declares that same-sex unions are a civil right, those governments almost certainly will enforce a wide variety of other policies intended to ensure that there is no discrimination against same-sex couples. This may well place “church and state on a collision course.”
The prospect of same-sex marriage has already spawned legal collisions with the rights of free speech and of action based on religious beliefs. For example, advocates and government officials in certain states already are challenging the long-held right of religious adoption agencies to follow their religious beliefs and only place children in homes with both a mother and a father. As a result, Catholic Charities in Boston has stopped offering adoption services.

Other advocates of same-sex marriage are suggesting that tax exemptions and benefits be withdrawn from any religious organization that does not embrace same-sex unions. Public accommodation laws are already being used as leverage in an attempt to force religious organizations to allow marriage celebrations or receptions in religious facilities that are otherwise open to the public. Accrediting organizations in some instances are asserting pressure on religious schools and universities to provide married housing for same-sex couples. Student religious organizations are being told by some universities that they may lose their campus recognition and benefits if they

exclude same-sex couples from club membership.
Many of these examples have already become the legal reality in several nations of the European Union, and the European Parliament has recommended that laws guaranteeing and protecting the rights of same-sex couples be made uniform across the EU. Thus, if same-sex marriage becomes a recognized civil right, there will be substantial conflicts with religious freedom. And in some important areas, religious freedom may be diminished." ("The Divine Institution of Marriage"-Dallin H. Oaks)

INTERESTING RESEARCH FINDINGS SHOW LACK OF "TOLERANCE" WITH GAY MEN TOWARDS TRANSGENDERS OF THE MALE TO FEMALE POPULATION:

WHILE WORKING ON MY SOCIAL WORK MASTERS DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII-ANOTHER COLLEAGUE (MY CLOSE LESBIAN FRIEND-AFTER YEARS IS STILL MY CLOSE FRIEND) AND I DECIDED TO DO OUR RESEARCH ON THE TRANSGENDER POPULATION. SHE INITIATED WORKING WITH THIS POPULATION. THIS WAS BASED ON QUALITATIVE RESEARCH. TO OUR SURPRISE, OUR FINDINGS SHOWED SOMETHING QUITE TROUBLING. HERE IS WHAT WE DISCOVERED.

ALL OF THOSE WE HAD INTERVIEWED, PASSIONATELY EXPRESSED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DISCRIMINATED THE MOST AMONGST GAY MEN THAN ANY OTHER POPULATION (HETEROSEXUAL, WOMEN, STRAIGHT MEN). THEY CONTINUED BY EXPRESSING HOW SOME OF THESE GAY MEN WOULD AT TIMES LET THEM KNOW THAT THEY ARE A DISGRACE TO THE MALE GENDER AND WERE ALSO TREATED WITH HATE, ANGER, CRUELTY, EMBARRASSMENT AND SHAME.

WHAT IS INTERESTING ABOUT THIS FINDING IS THE FACT THAT THESE GAY MEN, HAVE ALSO FELT AND EXPERIENCED THE HARMING EFFECTS OF INTOLERANCE, YET THEY WERE NOW DISPLACING THIS SAME TYPE OF INHUMANE BEHAVIOR ON THESE TRANSGENDER POPULATION. YOU WOULD THINK THERE WOULD BE SOME EMPATHY AND "TOLERANCE" TO WHAT THESE GAY MEN HAVE EXPERIENCED.

IS IT REALLY ABOUT “EQUAL RIGHTS” AND THE ISSUE OF ‘INTOLERANCE”? SOMETHING TO REALLY PONDER AND EXAMINE.

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,
Janell Yim
Hawaii Voter

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in opposition to SB 1. I ask that you consider not voting on this bill during this upcoming special session. But, rather allow for more time to consider and possibly revise this bill and allow the people of Hawaii to have their voices be heard by voting on the issue themselves.

I believe that this is an issue that the people of Hawaii have a strong opinion on and should be allowed to have their voices heard. I ask that you allow us, the people, to vote on the issue for ourselves. I do not feel that the opinions of the majority is currently being properly represented in this special session. Fifteen years ago the people were given the power to make their voices heard on the same issue we are now looking at. At the time, I was only thirteen years old and not old enough to make my opinion heard. Now I ask that you allow me to do so.

The governor has stated that churches religious freedoms will be protected from having their religious rights violated. However, according to the current bill, I don't believe that the religious freedoms of many churches in the state of Hawaii will not be protected because many churches extend the use of their facilities to the public and, therefore, would not be under any sort of protection to exercise their religious opinion regarding marriage.

I ask that you do not rush this decision and take time to look at the issue closer. If you feel that this is a matter that the people should not be allowed to vote on, then I ask that you please take more time to consider the. Hawaii voted in favor of traditional marriage then and I believe that opinion has not changed since. I don't believe that this special session is necessary and that extra time to discuss with the public more extensively would be beneficial to making a decision such as the defining of marriage.

Respectfully,

Jared Nielson

From: Jared Pruitt
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 6:54:38 AM
Attachments: Petition 2.pdf

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Hello. My name is Jared Pruitt. I reside in Mililani, and I vehemently oppose SB 1.

SB 1 is much too vague in its religious exemption language. It leaves room for obligating any religious organization or church to perform a marriage ceremony for any same sex couple. Why aren't there specific provisions and protections in the bill that explicitly say churches and religious organizations are not obligated to perform same sex marriages. Instead, SB 1 gives three stipulations that the churches and religious organizations MUST meet in order to be exempt. If a church doesn't meet those criterion, it is vulnerable to be forced to perform a same sex marriage which is in direct opposition to its faith and beliefs. I believe that legalizing same sex marriage without protecting churches and religious organizations is a direct violation of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment. A church or religious organization should not be forced by the government or any law it creates to perform any service which violates its tenants of faith and beliefs.

Please, let the people decide on this issue, and don't make this bill law until the regular session next year.

I am attaching a petition that I started at moveon.org. It is signed by 1,279 others who feel the same way. We hope that you will listen to the voices of the people you serve.

Thank you for your time and for serving the people of Hawaii.

Jared P.K. Pruitt

MIlilani, HI, 96789

Opposition

Dear The Hawaii State House and Governor Neil Abercrombie,

We are pleased to present you with this petition affirming this statement:

"Stop the government from restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs. "

Attached is a list of individuals who have added their names to this petition, as well as additional comments written by the petition signers themselves.

Sincerely,
Jared Pruitt

Janice Pearson
Honolulu, HI 96821
Oct 27, 2013

Stop!!!

Rhonda Pagharion
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 27, 2013

This is a democracy and you should let the people decide. By just signing the act into law you are insulting the people of Hawaii. You are implying that we are stupid.

Audrey Shiotsu
Hawaii, HI 96826
Oct 27, 2013

Al Akiona
Honolulu, HI 96821
Oct 27, 2013

Stop the government from restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely Exercise their beliefs

Flora Arceo
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 27, 2013

Allow the people to decide!

Verda Jenkins
Kea'au, HI 96749
Oct 27, 2013

I will be praying the for favor and grace of God and His perfect will be done.

Esther Poor
Haleiwa, HI 96712
Oct 27, 2013

Kill the Governor's Bill

Jane Haynes
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 27, 2013

You are trying to force us to accept something against our religious beliefs. You not representing the people but your own agenda. Stop trying to redefine morality... government is not our God.

Sharon P.
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 27, 2013

Brandon p
kahului, HI 96732
Oct 27, 2013

I am against the same sex marriage. Tadao Saito

Tadao Saito
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 27, 2013

Jared A.
Kahului, HI 96732
Oct 27, 2013

Marriage is between a man and a woman - please protect the sanctity of marriage!!!!

William Silva Jr
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 27, 2013

Stop the government from restircting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs.

Pam Silva
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 27, 2013

Jamilah Hernandez
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 27, 2013

Walter
Kahului, HI 96732
Oct 27, 2013

Eunice Chang
Hon, HI 96817
Oct 27, 2013

No same sex marriage

Georgette DeMello
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 27, 2013

James A Mitchell
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 27, 2013

I do not want same sex marrages.

Kumiko Saito
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 27, 2013

Kelfred Chang
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 27, 2013

Ryan Nakao
Pukalani, HI 96768
Oct 27, 2013

I believe that marriage is sacred and should be for a man and a woman. Great values and balance is best.

Shiloh
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 27, 2013

Paul Thome
hilo, HI 96720
Oct 27, 2013

Melanie Nakabayashi
Ewa beach, HI 96706
Oct 27, 2013

Jamey Catlett
Waianae, HI 96792
Oct 27, 2013

Maren
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 27, 2013

Ioane Kaulia
Waianae, HI 96792

Oct 27, 2013

Krista Duncan
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 27, 2013

Julian Kaulia
Waianae, HI 96792
Oct 27, 2013

Kaipo Thomas
Pukalani, HI 96768
Oct 27, 2013

Keneka Kaulia
Kailua, Kona, HI 96740
Oct 27, 2013

James Igawa
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 27, 2013

Maki Catlett
Waianae, HI 96792
Oct 27, 2013

Please Let the People Vote!! Why are you rushing something as big as this?

Dennis Kaulia
Kailua, Kona, HI 96740
Oct 27, 2013

Jean Watanabe
pearl city, HI 96782
Oct 27, 2013

Please leave marriage the way God intended and created it to be: between a man and a woman.

Kay Sooto
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 27, 2013

Please let the people decide. So much is focusing on the adults.....but consider the keiki of Hawaii. Please stop and think our our future of our keiki.

Lei Hatcher
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 27, 2013

Marriage will open a "Pandora's box" as Massachusetts and other states are finding out. It's only the beginning of the invasion of the filth they'll force on us as a society if same-sex marriage is passed in our beautiful state of Hawaii.

Tau Sooto
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 27, 2013

Brittney Bostaph
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 27, 2013

Marriage was designed by God to be between a man and a woman. I'm saying NO (once again) to the same sex marriage bill.

Donna Faainuinu
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 27, 2013

Chiharu Sakai
HONOLULU, HI 96817-5341
Oct 27, 2013

Michinari Sakai
HONOLULU, HI 96817-5341
Oct 27, 2013

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malcolm akiona
wailuku maui, HI 96793
Oct 27, 2013

Please check out what has happened to Mass. and other states when they legalized same sex marriage-please let the people vote on this.

Robin Ventura
Makawao, HI 96768
Oct 27, 2013

Dawn Rodriguz
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 27, 2013

Please don't restrict my religious freedoms!

Roniza Trinidad
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 27, 2013

What is the rush? Please put it before the people to vote in the next election.

DAVID MARCIEL
PUKALANI, HI 96768
Oct 27, 2013

David Tervooren
Kihei, HI 96753
Oct 27, 2013

Shahlise Wainui
Kahului, HI 96732
Oct 27, 2013

Governor is forcing this down the State's throat. There is no urgency. Cancel the Special Session

Kenneth Meinken
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 26, 2013

Ray Sackett
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 26, 2013

David Fisbeck
hilo, HI 96720
Oct 26, 2013

Vote NO special session for same sex marriage.

Harriet Carmody
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 26, 2013

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jocelyn asato
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

Janet Aelani McCary
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

Ana rubio
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 26, 2013

I am for traditional marriage between a man and a women and believe we the people have the right to vote on something that is so major to our family values. Plus, I believe we have religious rights and that our churches and ministers have religious rights to marry who they want according to their own convictions and they need to be upheld and honored not penalized!!. Thank you for hearing my voice!!

Kim Tongg
Makawao, HI 96768
Oct 26, 2013

Dora Baldwin
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 26, 2013

Melodee Lingaton
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 26, 2013

Kalei Baldwin
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 26, 2013

Didn't the people of Hawaii vote against same sex marriage? Doesn't the will of the people deserve to be honored by elected officials? The people of Hawaii are not willing to prostitute themselves for money. Remember our state motto: The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.

Dannette Caires
Kula, HI 96790
Oct 26, 2013

Don Baldwin Jr.
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 26, 2013

Marriage is for a Man & Woman. Who can make a family. We will pay for it big time . You won't see it now, put you will down the road. May the load have mercy on all who vote yes on this bill. The people have spoken all ready. And it has fallen on deaf ears.

Douglas E. Jensen
Makawao, HI 95768-0859
Oct 26, 2013

Emily Ventura
Kula, HI 96700
Oct 26, 2013

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shaun waite
makawao, HI 96768
Oct 26, 2013

Kristin Holstein
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 26, 2013

Let's keep America the land of the free. Stop restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely express their beliefs. Thank you.

Patsy Torres
AP, AP 96376
Oct 26, 2013

I oppose the redefinition of marriage to be anything other than between a man and a woman. Also, the bill needs to have specific protections in place for clergy, religious organizations, small businesses and their owners, and even public officers who object as a matter of conscience to officiating in a same-sex marriage.

Nate Black
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 26, 2013

Kathleen Sweet
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 26, 2013

I support traditional marriage

Kimberly Pagaduan
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

Please don't take away our religious freedoms.

Lynda G. Thompson
Paia, HI 96779
Oct 26, 2013

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melanie m. olson
honolulu, HI 30906
Oct 26, 2013

Jolambereen Mawae Mollena
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 26, 2013

Mark Muranishi
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 26, 2013

Lurline De Costa
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 26, 2013

I'm opposed to SB. Proper marriage is between 1man and 1woman. If someone feels differently they don't have the right to we'd in my church.

Adrian Aiu
Kahuku, HI 96731
Oct 26, 2013

The concept of "Marriage" is very simple and universal that it's valuable union between Man and Woman to create ideal family.

Norihisa Shiotsu
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 26, 2013

We the people had voted against this . Stop this non sense now.

George Pelekane
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
Oct 26, 2013

John Henry
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

Let the people to decide and vote, I believe that sex & marriage is design by God; between a man and a woman. Because it is sacred act and you can not violate it. Just like any race or ethnicity it is sacred and you can not violate it, how do you sacralize ethnicity & desacralize marriage! " A disposition or a proclivity does not justify expressing that disposition and that proclivity. That goes across the board for all sexuality" -Ravi Zacharias Ravi Zacharias link http://vimeo.com/16389232

Marcelino Madayag
Kauai, HI 96756
Oct 26, 2013

Joshua Kim
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

Imelda
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 26, 2013

Marissa Asato
Kahului, HI 96732

Oct 26, 2013

Keep tradition marriage. One man - One women. Don't confuse our Keiki. Gov. Abercrombie pls. find a quite time with God, Allow Him to search your heart, inquiry in Him..in Jesus' mighty name Amen.

kuulei Nohara
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 26, 2013

No on same sex marriage

Betty Lou Aurelio
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

Justine Kaina
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 26, 2013

I am against the Same Sex Marriage Bill

Jonavan Asato
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

Vic
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 26, 2013

Luana
Kahului, HI 96732
Oct 26, 2013

Keep tradition marriage. God please help us.

Keala
Kailua Hi, HI 96734
Oct 26, 2013

KEEP TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE IN OUR STATE!!! Times are already tough, why make it worse by changing the law!! There are already reciprocal beneficiary benefits in place and that is sufficient! God help us if this bill passes...

Michelle Domingcil
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 26, 2013

Marguerite Jensen
Makawao, HI 96768

Oct 26, 2013

Pls. honor our voice -we have stated 2xs that we want Marriage is between one man & one woman. Don't ignore our requests..

Sandra Ban-Martin
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

We need to keep our traditional (1man, 1woman) family for our kids's sake. Please do not confuse them.

Linda TSUI
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 26, 2013

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the people of hawaii have voted NO twice to same sex marriage! Listen to our voices!

ericka gaastra
Lahaina, HI 96761
Oct 26, 2013

Kenneth Ching
Honolulu, HI 96815
Oct 26, 2013

We voted once before that we should NOT legalize same sex marriage...when the people have spoken, why is the Governor changing the method of legislating a law he wants approved?

Paula Elarionoff
Kamuela, HI 96743
Oct 26, 2013

Beverly Saito
Haleiwa, HI 96712
Oct 26, 2013

Eva Hubbard
Waianae, HI 96792
Oct 26, 2013

Passing this bill will be detrimental to the People and the State of Hawaii. Vote NO and DO NOT pass this bill on same -sex marriage.

charel Gabriel
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 26, 2013

May we get God back in America and maybe we will be blessed as a Country. Our Country is being destroyed and has so much evil in it! God Bless America!!

Stacy Robbinis
Newalla, OK 74857
Oct 26, 2013

Shane Adolpho
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

Mary Bea King
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 26, 2013

Perlita Byrne-Herzog
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 26, 2013

Phil Robinson
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 26, 2013

Susan Robinson
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 26, 2013

Please let the people of Hawaii vote and decide.

Naomi Chang
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 26, 2013

Michele Kamau
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 26, 2013

This has got to stop - this country is founded on religious liberty

Sandra Musselman
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
Oct 26, 2013

Marriage is a word for one man and one woman, not to b redefined by the government.

Karma Langer
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 26, 2013

Judy Byce
Koloa, HI 96756
Oct 26, 2013

As stated in Queen Liliuokalani's Constitution, the Holy Bible, marriage is between a Man and a Woman

Glenna Tsugawa
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 26, 2013

Lynda S Shimodoi
WAILUKU, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

Audrey Byrd
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 26, 2013

Florence Tanaka
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 26, 2013

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al kaanana
lAHAINA, HI 96761
Oct 26, 2013

Let the people decide.

karen miyataki
kailua, HI 96734
Oct 26, 2013

Rosaline Ching
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 26, 2013

Protect marriage! Protect our children and their future!

Tierra Foster
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

One Man and One Woman

Geraldine and Ronald Tsuzuki
Honolulu, HI 96815
Oct 26, 2013

Let the people vote!

Heidi Ka'aihue-Lacsina
Kea'au, HI 96749
Oct 26, 2013

Patrick Zukeran
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 26, 2013

Woletta kim
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 26, 2013

Erik Verhoef
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 26, 2013

Esther Verhoef
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 26, 2013

Sandi Akamine
kahului, HI 96732
Oct 26, 2013

Our churches must be able to uphold their beliefs!

Kathleen S. Watanabe
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

Noela Nance
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 26, 2013

Linda Teruya
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 26, 2013

Richard Chang
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 26, 2013

Timothy Strauwald
Kapa'a, HI 96746
Oct 26, 2013

maui wolfgramm
kailua, HI 96734
Oct 26, 2013

Michael Thomas
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

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juanita wolfgramm
kailua, HI 96734
Oct 26, 2013

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sharrel souza
hon, HI 96825
Oct 26, 2013

Mary Akiona
Wailuku Maui,, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

Haliaka Kama
Kihei, HI 96753
Oct 26, 2013

Lanae Akiona
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 26, 2013

Respect the people who passed a Constitutional Amendment to keep traditional marriage. gay people have Civil Unions which gives them equality

Glen kelly
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

Lana Lando
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 26, 2013

Keala Gasmen
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

William
Waianae, HI 96789
Oct 26, 2013

Heidi Turner
Lahaina, HI 96761
Oct 26, 2013

Let the people vote.

Folau Finau
Kahului, HI 96733
Oct 26, 2013

Kahea Tancayo
Kihei, HI 96753
Oct 26, 2013

Leroy Perry
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 26, 2013

Please stop the special session and put it on the ballot and let the people of Hawaii allow their voice to be heard.

Tiffany mancao
Pinene, HI 96784
Oct 26, 2013

Raymond Pasi
Hauula, HI 96717
Oct 26, 2013

I OPPOSE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE THIS BILLis NEEDS 2 BE REVISED. OUR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS ARE AT STAKE & IT VIOLATES OUR OUR AMENDMENTS. STOP THIS BILL NOW. WE VOTED & OPPOSED IT!! AMBERCOMBIE YOU WILL NEVER HAVE A SECOND TERM!!! GET OUT OF HAWAII GOVERNMENT

Tammie Mokiao-Atimalala
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 26, 2013

Lois Colton
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 26, 2013

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the government has no right to force ANYONE to go against there beliefs. I do believe this is what the constitution meant by freedom of religion!

carol yahiel
honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 26, 2013

Steve J Santos
Lahaina, HI 96761
Oct 26, 2013

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jodie sajor
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

Laurie McClary
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 26, 2013

Let the people vote, please!

darien okubo
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

Mahealani Strong
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

Alexander John Ortiz RN, BA, AS, AA.
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 26, 2013

Frank Gobel
Lahaina, HI 96761
Oct 26, 2013

Stop Same Sex Legislation. Kill the Govenor's Bill.

LIETTE CORPUS
KAUNAKAKAI, HI 96748
Oct 26, 2013

BRAD EMMERICH
LAHAINA, HI 96767
Oct 26, 2013

Hannah KIRN
Captain Cook, HI 96704
Oct 26, 2013

Xuemei Prtiz
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 26, 2013

John eddy
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

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shari Akiyama
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 26, 2013

Paula Siaosi Ngalu
Kihei, HI 96753
Oct 26, 2013

Alice Enos
Hauula, HI 96717
Oct 26, 2013

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natalie mawae
Maunaloa, HI 96770
Oct 26, 2013

Lucy Parkin
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 26, 2013

Stop the governors special session voting for for equality, same sex marriage. Let the people of Hawaii vote, let the people of Hawaii's voice be heard not our leaderahip voting for us

Shirley eddy
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

Lisa Shelly
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 26, 2013

Deborah Malauulu
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 26, 2013

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kellee emmerich
lahaina, HI 96767
Oct 26, 2013

Christopher Pascua
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 26, 2013

Laura Hoogerwerf
Honolulu, HI 96820
Oct 26, 2013

Tanya Guevara
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 26, 2013

Please keep marriage between a man and a woman.

Lauranne Tugade
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 26, 2013

Joseph P Picon
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 26, 2013

Marriage is a holy union between a MAN AND WOMAN. This is a perfect example of blind tolerence by the people and slowly turning these United States into a modern day Sodom and Gomorra. There is Nothing holy about same sex marriage and homosexuality. 1 Corinthians 6:9

Pat Sensano
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

I do not support same sex marriage

Doreen Noborikawa
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 26, 2013

Benito Seveses
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 26, 2013

Please allow the people of Hawaii vote on this very important issue! This country was founded on principles of religious liberty and that must be maintained.

Michele Bauer
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 26, 2013

Janis Chun
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 26, 2013

Melody Habon
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 26, 2013

Rosa Maria Seveses
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 26, 2013

Gods law between marriage is for only between a man and a woman, not a man to a dog or another man, or a woman to another woooommmmaaaannnnn!!!!!!!!!!

vaaiti M
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 26, 2013

Please let the people decide what marriage should be. It was decided a while ago that it should be between a man and a woman. Thank you.

JAYSON TUGADE
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 26, 2013

Adi
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 26, 2013

Danielle Brockett
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 26, 2013

I believe that we, the people of Hawaii, should be able to vote on this issue.

Evelyn Hascall
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 26, 2013

Gene Ross K. Davis
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
Oct 26, 2013

Christine Chu
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 26, 2013

Let the people vote!!

Sins
Pahoa, HI 96778

Oct 26, 2013

Joeli T Kama
Kihei, HI 96753
Oct 26, 2013

Basilio U. Ringor Jr.
Wahiawa, HI 96786
Oct 26, 2013

Erica Rabe
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 26, 2013

Let the people vote!

Maja Kama
Kihei, HI 96753
Oct 26, 2013

Let the People Vote!

Kuulei Iranon
Keaau, HI 96749
Oct 26, 2013

Dennis Young
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 26, 2013

Susan Ching
Honolulu, HI 96921
Oct 26, 2013

Jedidiah Min
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 26, 2013

Protect marriage and the family structure which God designed.

Victoria Sensano
wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 26, 2013

Protect OUR rights as well

Carolyn Harris
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 26, 2013

Carl Baltensperger
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 26, 2013

Let the people vote on this.

Ken Everett
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 26, 2013

Laura Colandrea
Honolulu, HI 96821
Oct 25, 2013

Thank you for hearing the people of Hawaii.

Josephine Barayuga
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 25, 2013

Caroline Kaholoaa
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

Jahziel Tuppal
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 25, 2013

Lahela Lung
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 25, 2013

Jeffrey Tyau
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 25, 2013

Stop same sex marriage..

Noelani Maglinti
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

This proposed bill is illegal as the governor does not have the power to write bills. He is pushing an agenda upon the people of Hawaii in an effort to destroy the family unit. There are 34 states which do not agree with same sex marriage and there is none other trying to push during a special session. Voting by the people is the only positive solution.

Susan Daley
Keaau, HI 96749
Oct 25, 2013

Carl O. Ericksen
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 25, 2013

Cherie Tsukamoto
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 25, 2013

Amy Perdue
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 25, 2013

Rodney murakami
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 25, 2013

Joseph Cazimero Jr.
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 25, 2013

Emilie Davis
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

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jerry mancao
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 25, 2013

Marlene k. Sproat
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
Oct 25, 2013

I support religious liberty in Hawaii

Rosemary Cooper
Kalaheo, HI 96741
Oct 25, 2013

Let the People Decide!!

Cheryl Davis
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

Joe Pututau
Pleasant Grove, UT 84062
Oct 25, 2013

Gail Yoneshige
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

Dennis Tulang
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 25, 2013

This is breaking the freedom of religion laws as well as the equality rights!

Katelyn McBeth
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 25, 2013

Dory Chang
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

Anita Aquino
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 25, 2013

Charleen gillis
kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 25, 2013

Alaina Valente
Miliani, HI 96789
Oct 25, 2013

Wanetta S. Vierra
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 25, 2013

Ellen Yamane
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 25, 2013

We don't want gay marriage legalized in HI! Listen to the majority!

janet bacon
LAHAINA, HI 96761
Oct 25, 2013

This bill is not ready to be considered. Please do not vote it into being.

Beth Bachran
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 25, 2013

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wanda
kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 25, 2013

Keith Hirata
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 25, 2013

Vote No on the same sex marriage

Rose Marie Camacho
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 25, 2013

Ann Lopez-Hirata
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 25, 2013

Akane Daubner
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 25, 2013

Stop the government from restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs.

Joyce Kapololu
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 25, 2013

Please stop, enough already about Adam & Steve having the right to marry.

Vincent Goodwin
Hanalei, HI 96714
Oct 25, 2013

Lorraine Tanuvasa
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 25, 2013

DAVID TUCKER
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 25, 2013

Eldene Albino
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

We were created in the image of God the Father and all that we have here on this earth was given for our benefit in goodness and righteousness. God created man and woman and commanded them to multiply and replenish the earth. God has commanded that the Sacred Power of Procreation are to be employed between man and women, lawfully wedded as husband and wife. The Family is central to the Creators plan for the eternal destiny of his children. Because of the rapid growth in technology, media, and the corruption of material and worldly things exploited before our natural eyes, the value of family, the importance of traditions, the respect and acknowledgement of God the Father is diminishing quickly and the hastening of Destruction is nigh at hand. We are blessed with the gift of Agency, but we need to use wisdom and think who provide us with all that we have, "Our Heavenly Father"!

Jossette Mawae Mollena
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

Needs more time for legislators to review and consider and hear testimony. This should be heard in regular session and put before the registered voters of Hawaii for a vote.

Janette Magalei
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

I oppose same sex marriage

Charles Couch Jr
Kapolei, ID 96707
Oct 25, 2013

Mary Ann Araki
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 25, 2013

Kathleen Hashimoto
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

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luxiao he

honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 25, 2013

Joyce Lau
Honolulu, HI 96828
Oct 25, 2013

I oppose same sex marriage in Hawaii GODS original design. Is marriage between one man/one woman which Best promotes healthy families and a Stable society.

May L Au
Hauula,, HI 96717
Oct 25, 2013

Vote No to same-sex marriage

Joanne Situ
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 25, 2013

First Amendment rights protect the People's freedom to exercise religion as they see fit! This includes abstaining from the uniting of same-sex 'couples by their religious leaders or on their property.

Natalie Sheets
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 25, 2013

No same-sex marriage

Lily Kamei
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 25, 2013

Please vote "No" to same-sex marriage

Cindy Ki
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 25, 2013

Christina Martiney
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 25, 2013

This is a decision that must be made by society. We've already voted and as a society declared the truth that marriage is only between a man and a woman. Allowing this bill to pass will degrade the sacred institution of marriage and have severe negative repercussions here in Hawaii.

Samiuela Tolutau
Laie, HI 96762

Oct 25, 2013

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lai ue liu
waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 25, 2013

Bernard Prescott
Hauula, HI 96717
Oct 25, 2013

Lillie Tongi
Kahuku, HI 96731
Oct 25, 2013

Cristina Gilkey
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 25, 2013

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zhijun Zhou
honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 25, 2013

Kyli Joe Mawae
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

Trinette Kaui
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 25, 2013

This decision should not be made by politicians or judges, but by a vote of the people.

Scott Reynolds
Kilauea, HI 96754
Oct 25, 2013

Alvin Kawaa
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

I fully oppose same sex marriage. An issue this important to the welfare of society as a whole should not be voted on by a few, but by those people that will have to live by it. The term "marriage" needs to be reserved for the lawful union between one man and one woman.

Kathryn Mundy
Kahului, HI 96732
Oct 25, 2013

Rosalie M.Tadda
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 25, 2013

Beverly Yamada
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 25, 2013

Gives PEOPLE the right to decide this monumental issue which affects lives of our children!

Ada Mark
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 25, 2013

Miriam Pilar
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 25, 2013

Mel Rosario
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 25, 2013

I totally object to same sex marriage and ask that the people have the opportunity to vote on it.

Lloyd Ignacio
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

Elsa souza
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

ABERCROMBIE LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE AND GO BACK TO NEW YORK AND STAY THERE. ALOHA MEANS BUH BYE!

Derwin Villanueva
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 25, 2013

The issue here is not civil rights, the issue here is the sanctity of marriage and the people's right to decide. I have no problem with "Civil Unions" and legal rights should go along with those unions. I do have a problem with weak politicians caving in to the demands of a minority of people who think they have the right to dictate what my rights should be. I believe in the sanctity of marriage - that it involves one man and one woman - period! Every child deserves the right to one father and one mother. Gods laws cannot be changed, even if man laws try to deem it differently. Take God out of the equation and gay unions are against Natures Law! If we were all supposed to be gay, than there would be no WE! Keep civil unions between gays their term for "marriage" and accord them all the legal rights with that union. Keep marriage as the union between one man and one woman - period! LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!! It takes the pressure off you and puts it in the hands of the people! Keep God and His churches separate, we should not have to be forced to perform weddings in the very places we hold sacred. This bill needs to be thrown out and a newer stronger one re-written to give more protection to the people that believe that marriage is not something to be bought or sold to the highest bidder!!!

Patricia Spere
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 25, 2013

Aaron Curtis
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 25, 2013

Aaron Kawakami
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 25, 2013

Lori Toda
Honolulu, HI 96821
Oct 25, 2013

Raine lactaoen
Ewa beach, HI 96706
Oct 25, 2013

Jason Poepoe
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 25, 2013

Greg Hoke
Kula, HI 96790
Oct 25, 2013

Keep marriage traditional between a man and a woman. However, if the same sex marriage bill is passed, the legislature must provide exemptions for all religions and religious leaders from performing such a right.

Derek Fukuda
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 25, 2013

LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!

Garret Shon
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 25, 2013

Hear the voice of the people, and preserve the sacredness of marriage between a man and woman.

Marialuz Dowsett
Ewa beach, HI 96706
Oct 25, 2013

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stop the government from restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs.

Judy Arthur
Kihei, HI 96753
Oct 25, 2013

Steve Lai
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 25, 2013

Mirna Clemente
Ewa beach, HI 96706
Oct 25, 2013

KEEP TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE TRADITIONAL BETWEEN ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN

Sueyen Ortiz
Lawai, HI 96765
Oct 25, 2013

Delphine
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 25, 2013

John Maher
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 25, 2013

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samuel erbe
Hilo, HI 96760
Oct 25, 2013

Sue Davis
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

I do not support same sex marriage

Jadelynne Kalauka
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 25, 2013

Marmionette hopfe
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

Noelani maglinti
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

Jason Gray
Lihu, HI 96766
Oct 25, 2013

Anthony maglinti
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 25, 2013

God ordained marriage as a "Covenant" for one man and one woman. This God's 'forever terms' when He desgined marriage.

Melvin Partido Sr
Pearl Cithy, HI 96782
Oct 25, 2013

Stop same sex marriage

Rolling yamamoto
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

I am not in favor of the same sex marriage bill. I hope the people have the opportunity to decide.

Michelle b Liow
Kailua, Central African Republic
Oct 25, 2013

In 1998 the people of the State of Hawaii voted to amend the Hawaii State Constitution to restrict marriage to couples of opposite sex, to prohibit same-sex marriage. That was the intend and will of the people of Hawaii. The vote was 69.2 against same-sex marriage. Please do your duty and defend the Hawaii State Constitution and vote NO.

JOHN LOUGHLIN
MILILANI, HI 96789

Oct 25, 2013

Stop same sex marriage

Yolanda yamamoto
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

Gladys Zamora
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 25, 2013

Please let the voters decide..Don't assume you know what the majority is in favor for...it is the Pono thing to do!

David Kawamoto
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 25, 2013

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greg lee
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 25, 2013

I strongly oppose this bill due to the fact of a serious lack of our religious liberties.

Alan Akina
Kahuku, HI 96731
Oct 25, 2013

SAME SEX MARRIAGE WILL IMPACT ALL OF US - & SO SHOULD BE DECIDED BY ALL OF US IN A VOTE. DON'T RAILROAD SAME SEX MARRIAGE ARROGANTLY IGNORING OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS!

john nakao
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 25, 2013

Patricia Chang
HONOLULU, HI 96816-2746
Oct 25, 2013

Easter Almuena
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 25, 2013

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george ng
honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 25, 2013

Ian Scott
Honolulu, HI 96821
Oct 25, 2013

No same sax marriage! Do you want your kids are gay???

victoria chan-ng
honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 25, 2013

Let the people decide on Marriage! As a registered voter, all voices should be heard, an the Legislature's Special Session does not promote democracy.

Melissa
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 25, 2013

Dennis Keanini
Kualapuu, HI 96757
Oct 25, 2013

Wes
kalaheo, HI 96741
Oct 25, 2013

Patricia Keanini
Kualapuu, HI 96757
Oct 25, 2013

Lynn Vasquez
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 25, 2013

Arnold Lavaki
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 25, 2013

Kerri Scott
Honolulu, HI 96821
Oct 25, 2013

Politics should NOT tell us how to live and run our lives. Politicians should be ousted for creating such corruption.

James Chung
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 25, 2013

The majority of Hawaii's people don't want same sex marriage. Why don't we have a people's vote on the matter. Let our people decide and they will tell you "straight" that we don't want same sex marriage in out State.

Hank Paresa
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 25, 2013

Marriage is a sacred vow between a man and a woman as ordained by GOD The Father. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. - Genesis 2:24 What therefore GOD hath joined together, let not man put asunder. - Mark 10:9

Mike S.
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 25, 2013

Give the people of Hawaii an opportunity to vote on this issue.

Janette Gonzales
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 25, 2013

Gary H. Watanabe
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 25, 2013

No same sex marriage

Darrell Siu
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 25, 2013

Naomi
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 25, 2013

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we reject the same sax marriage.

Yamin Wang
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 25, 2013

Let the people vote on this very important issue!

Edwin Tangunan
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 25, 2013

Stop same-sex marriage now, it is a sinful relationship that God will never approve of. He calls it detestable. Marriage is of God, One man and One woman plain and simple don't let the Governor change God's ordained order of Marriage.

Radford Rabe
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 25, 2013

Please stop the controversy and put it to a popular vote.

Sharon Gerald
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 25, 2013

I believe that this goes against the first amendment, because it will affect the way that we practice our religion. It will not allow us to perform the sacred ordinance of marriage in our holy temples, which, for all in my religion, is a very important step in our lives. Please allow us to keep our freedom of religion. This government already has taken so much of our freedom away, and it should not take more of our freedom away because a small percentage of people who want to practice homosexuality. We believe in the true nature of family, and we do not need to give up our traditions. I accept all those who decide to live differently than myself, but, for me and my future family, I would like to make sure that a traditional marriage in the temple will be accessible. Ella

Ella Arume
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 25, 2013

Karen Tan
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 25, 2013

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mele strickland
kihei, HI 96753
Oct 25, 2013

Let the people vote and have a say.

Jean Au
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

PLEASE PRESERVE TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE AS GOD INTENDED!!! THANK YOU

Candace Vizcarra
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 25, 2013

my response to SAME SEX MARRIAGE is NO. a Concerned Tutu

Charslene K Kanoa
Waimanalo, HI 96795
Oct 25, 2013

DONNA WOLFORD
Waipau, HI 96979
Oct 25, 2013

Janet Kusuhara
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 25, 2013

Lambert Kalanikuikamoku Han
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

Jonathan Nosaka
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 25, 2013

Kill the Bill!

Yasuhara Patti
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 25, 2013

Tammy Brown
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 25, 2013

Christine Chae
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 25, 2013

Robert Tomlinson
Pahoa, HI 96778
Oct 25, 2013

I vote against same sex marriage and want to freely practice my religious beliefs!!

Genella K Albino
Kualapuu, HI 96757
Oct 25, 2013

Dave Barnett
HONOLULU, HI 96821

Oct 25, 2013

Traci Muramoto
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 25, 2013

Laurie Chow
Hawaii, HI 96766
Oct 25, 2013

It shouldn't be in Goverment We Trust, It should be in God We trust.

David Defries jr
Anahola, HI 96703
Oct 25, 2013

Ken Young
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 25, 2013

Gail Tamashiro
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 25, 2013

Please stop this special session to change what the public has already voted on to keep marriage between a man and worman

Davette
Honolulu,, HI 96819
Oct 25, 2013

Ronald Sasada
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

Sherry Sasada
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

Jonah-Kuhio Kaauwai
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

ASHLYNN MAWAE
HOOLEHUA, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

I do not in any way support same sex marriage!

Rochelle Kalaukoa
HIlo, HI 96720
Oct 25, 2013

Greg Andres
Torrance, CA 90502
Oct 25, 2013

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keil
kaunakakai, HI 96748
Oct 25, 2013

I agree that we need to stop the government from restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs.

Nani Barnett
HONOLULU, HI 96821
Oct 25, 2013

Please don't put Hawaii in the position of telling God He is wrong. He is a jealous God!

Marv Paularena
Kahului, HI 96732
Oct 25, 2013

I AM NOT IN FAVOR OF THIS BILL..!!! PLEASE HERE THE PEOPLE..!!!

stephanie France
kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 25, 2013

I DO NOT WANT THIS BILL..!!! PLEASE HERE OUR VOICES...!!!

Jude France
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 25, 2013

Christine
Kihei, HI 96753
Oct 25, 2013

I do not support the Same Sex Marriage Bill!

Reynold Tamayei
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 25, 2013

Lillian Hanada
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 25, 2013

Godfrey Akaka III
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

Godfrey Akaka
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

Jason Akaka
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

Joseph Akaka
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

Kaulanarose Akaka
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

JoDean Akaka
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

This bill will have a big negative impact on our community and on the next generations to come. What are we teaching our kids about our freedom?

Wayne Bacnis
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 25, 2013

Frank Kim
Hon, HI 96822
Oct 25, 2013

Stop compromising to the majority to make changes where there should be no change at all. These laws were put together in the past for a reason, why change what is not broken! Please consider the repercussions of what this would do to our state. Stop playing politics and stand firm and fight for our state laws that is there for a purpose. Question? Who really has the freedom of speech? Does our state have the freedom? Something to ponder on, why are you in your position, why did you run for governement, what do you stand for?

Grace Bacnis
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 25, 2013

TRINA PAGAN
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 25, 2013

Lucy Jim
Kihei Maui, HI 96753
Oct 25, 2013

Sian Urbanozo
Kamuela, HI 96743
Oct 25, 2013

Eddy Tsing
Kahuku, HI 96731
Oct 25, 2013

Theresa Condit
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 25, 2013

Terenoa Teriitua
Kahuku, HI 96731
Oct 25, 2013

Sarah Turoa
Kahuku, HI 96731
Oct 25, 2013

Stephanie Kua
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 25, 2013

Bruno Chung
Kahuku, HI 96731
Oct 25, 2013

Janie Johnson
Honolulu, HI 96818

Oct 25, 2013

Please support our moral and religious beliefs. Just like your supporting other beliefs.

Noah Hamilton
Princeville, HI 96722
Oct 25, 2013

Bruce Meyers
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 25, 2013

Michelle
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 25, 2013

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stop the special session that the governor has called and let the people vote on same sex marriage.

Blane Kamanu
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 25, 2013

Lily Brunke
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 25, 2013

Londa Chase
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 25, 2013

Kill the bill! I want to exercise my religious freedom and rights of what I believe in.

Dianne Reynolds
Hanalei, HI 96714
Oct 25, 2013

Glenda Buendia
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 25, 2013

Sean Dacuycuy
Hauula, HI 96717
Oct 25, 2013

Qi Hui Gao
honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 25, 2013

Melvin Partido
Federal Way, WA 98001
Oct 25, 2013

How can you in good conscience pass a bill that restricts people from the free exercise of their religion? I believe people have the right to choose a same-sex relationship if that is what they want to choose. By the same token, the government does not have the right to dictate what I can believe, or what I can say about what I believe, or force me or my church to violate our religious beliefs. DO NOT RESTRICT THE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE FREE EXERCISE OF THEIR BELIEFS. That means that in no way should the churches be required to perform same-sex marriage- IN NO WAY, SHAPE OR FORM. And don't kid yourself, that IS what this is ultimately about.

Sherrie au
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 25, 2013

This effort to make equal all things sounds like the right thing.....but it is not

Scott Jackson
Kapa'a, HI 96746
Oct 25, 2013

Daniel Pagan
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 25, 2013

Kill the bill Marriage is for a man an woman .

Alexander Gines
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 25, 2013

The government should let things be. 15 years ago they brought this to the people to decide by voting and it got shut down. Why are they bringing it up again.

Rochelle K Borden
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 25, 2013

Rachel Kaneshiro
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 25, 2013

Please don't let same sex marriage be legalized in Hawaii. It is against the law of nature. It will create chaos in Hawaii. Please....if you still care and love this island.

Jian Li
Honolulu, HI 96817

Oct 25, 2013

I support Traditional Marriage!!

Nikki Pagan
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 25, 2013

Roseller Asuncion
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 25, 2013

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let the people vote on an election. we already voted this before

Randy B. Diana
Anahola, HI 96703
Oct 25, 2013

Utahna Harris
Waikoloa, HI 96738
Oct 25, 2013

Let the people chose. No more government interference

Michael Chandler
Waimea, HI 96796
Oct 25, 2013

Amy Wong
HONOLULU, HI 96814
Oct 25, 2013

Sabrina Najarian
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

Ronald Pascua
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 25, 2013

This bill violate what the government has always pushed on religious people & organizations - "separation of church & state." If this bill is passed, then school & other places should be allowed to bring God back into their facilities. Getting married in churches is not the only way for gays to get married. They can go to a justice of the peace, or find a church that supports their lifestyle. It's unconstitutional to take away church rights to stand up for what they believe!!

Belyn Sybor
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
Oct 25, 2013

I believe the government should stay out of it !!! And everyone has the right to share their religion or Christianity !!! Freedom of speech !!!

Karen Scott
Texarkana, TX 75501
Oct 25, 2013

Chris Sutton
Lake Oswego, OR 97035
Oct 25, 2013

Stop the government from restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs.

Laura Collier
Westport, WA 98595
Oct 25, 2013

Nita sawyer
Kapolei, HI 96709
Oct 25, 2013

Arnette Nakamura
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 25, 2013

James Ederer
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 25, 2013

Stop the governor asap.

shelley
waimanalo, HI 96795
Oct 25, 2013

Gerald L Reiss
Keaau, HI 96749

Oct 25, 2013

Cynthia Chow
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 25, 2013

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ali soho
pasig, Philippines
Oct 25, 2013

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carl burns
Waianae, HI 96792
Oct 25, 2013

Shelby Caraballo
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 25, 2013

Bonny Herbert
Kihei, HI 96753
Oct 25, 2013

Let the people decide

Clifton Lee Burchfield
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 25, 2013

Stop same sex marriage.

Anthony maglinti
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 25, 2013

Stop same sex marriage.. Keep traditional marriage..

Shizuko holm
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

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janet baumgartner
lihue, HI 96766
Oct 25, 2013

Denise Bird
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
Oct 25, 2013

isidoro E. Gabriel
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 25, 2013

Dean Mabalot
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 25, 2013

Churches should be able to exercise their beliefs. If they own their facility and land, they should be exempt from discriminating lease of facilities for same sex marriage ceremonies if the churches' beliefs do not condone same sex marriage.

Lorene Park
Mili, HI 96789
Oct 25, 2013

No to special session! We the people have that right to exercise our democratic process to protect our freedom of speech and right to stand for our beliefs....no to same sex marriage!

Pio Sua-Godinet
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

Veronica P. Kaanga
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 25, 2013

Raymond K. Kaanga
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 25, 2013

Katherine G. Kaanga
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 25, 2013

Stop same sex marriage

Albert Wong
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 25, 2013

Shanna Wang
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 25, 2013

Blanca Larson
kapolei, HI 96709
Oct 25, 2013

Iolani Kamauu
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 25, 2013

Erin
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 25, 2013

Michelle Gabriel
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 25, 2013

Let the people decide!

Jennifer Sepada
Honolulu, HI 96815
Oct 25, 2013

Dujduen Santeci
Kahuku, HI 96731
Oct 25, 2013

Erik Scruton
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

Paul A. Pancho
Eleele, HI 96705
Oct 25, 2013

The people voted before and it was unanimous...72% against same sex marriage

Aaron Cummings
Kilauea, HI 96754
Oct 25, 2013

Denise
honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 25, 2013

The people should be able to vote on this issue and the way this bill stands at this time doesn't clearly lay out important protections for any religious organizations from keeping a same-sex marriage from occurring their facility or property due to our beliefs

Rachelle Nam
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 25, 2013

Robert Torres
HONOLULU, HI 96816
Oct 25, 2013

Donna Torres
HONOLULU, HI 96816
Oct 25, 2013

John W Holmes
Aiea, HI 96701-2830
Oct 25, 2013

Kris Krieger
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 25, 2013

To support religious freedom. All people should have freedom for what they believe.

Jean Tsukamoto
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 25, 2013

Vote NO on SB1!!

Linda Reece
Kahuku, HI 96731
Oct 25, 2013

Marlene Hironaka
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 25, 2013

Gail Ann K Tamashiro
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 25, 2013

Tiffany Tan
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 25, 2013

Seth Scott Launder
kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 25, 2013

Haroldine Kronenberger
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 25, 2013

Miki Uyeda
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 25, 2013

Patrick Mathews
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 25, 2013

Valerie Mathews
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 25, 2013

Yunfeng Zhai
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 25, 2013

Mary Ascheman
Kailua, IL 96734
Oct 25, 2013

The people of Hawaii have already voiced their opinion that marriage is between one man and one woman.

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald & Ramona Young
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 25, 2013

Jing Hu
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 25, 2013

Maye Kepoo
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 25, 2013

Libert Chung
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 25, 2013

Dan Douglass
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 25, 2013

Danilo Sanchez
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 25, 2013

Please allow the people to vote. We need an the avenue for voting. This should never be decided by the legislature! Mahalo.

Suzanne Maurer
Honolulu, HI 96821
Oct 25, 2013

Olivia Russell
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 25, 2013

Nelson Secretario
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 25, 2013

Marla McManus
Kihei, HI 96753
Oct 25, 2013

Maureen Nunes
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 25, 2013

Sue Rosco
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 25, 2013

I support traditional marriage between a man and woman and my values come from the word of God, who loves all people but not necessarily the choices they make.

Pala i. Viena
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 25, 2013

GARY LAU
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 25, 2013

Sean Mullaney
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 25, 2013

Religious institutions are indeed the future. When the world will finally begin to accept the study of the paranormal and the extraterrestrial as normal, that is when religion and science may perhaps be united. It would be a shame to see a part of our future destroyed because a certain group of people in a certain time period didn't like religion. I support freedom of religion, and I don't like it when people simply have a problem because we complain peacefully.

Austin Tasato
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 25, 2013

Martha Maebori
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 25, 2013

Cindy Chi Man Lee
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 25, 2013

Barbara Wong
Honolulu, HI 96744
Oct 25, 2013

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why not let the people? we voted once before something similar to this, why not again? one rep for a district doesn't cover all voices in his/her area.

Ramona Nunies
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 25, 2013

Sharon L. Silva
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 25, 2013

I am a sixteen year old high school student, and I believe that same-sex marriage infringes the freedom of speech for religious organizations who have and always will oppose to this for its violation of what the bible outlines to be a sin.

Tianzhen Nie
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 24, 2013

The Government should not make these decisions..the people should have s right to vote.

Merlita Evanoff
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 24, 2013

Xiao Hu

Dublin, CA 94568
Oct 24, 2013

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michelle Kalliam
kihei, HI 96753
Oct 24, 2013

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valerie holst
honolulu, HI 96821
Oct 24, 2013

Anita castillo
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 24, 2013

Darbi Akagi
EWA, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

Honorable Governor Abercrombie, I feel my right to vote on this controversial issue of legalizing same gender marriage in our State of Hawaii is being denied by this Special Session, specifically set to rush the passing of this bill into law. Please as a registered voter, let me vote on this issue!! Mahalo & Aloha

Cyndie Fernandez
Honolulu, HI 96815
Oct 24, 2013

Carol Meek
Kilauea, HI 96754
Oct 24, 2013

Ahtooanya
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Jane
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 24, 2013

Greg Wood
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

This bill needs to have the wording changed to lay out specific provisions or protections for any religious organization that wants to keep the same-sex marriage from occurring in their facilities, due to their belief and tenants of faith.

Teresa A Krahner
Hilo, HI 96720

Oct 24, 2013

Mel Domingcil
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 24, 2013

Stanley Maebori
Honolulu, HI 86818
Oct 24, 2013

Nathan Ching
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 24, 2013

Not every young person believes that you are entitled to marriage just because you love someone-- Marriage is between a man and a woman.

Jennifer LeFevre
Keaau, HI 96749
Oct 24, 2013

Please preserve the integrity of Marriage between a husband and wife in Hawaii!

Greg LeFevre
Keaau, HI 96749
Oct 24, 2013

Brady Burgess
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

Please preserve the integrity of Marriage between a husband and wife in Hawaii!

Lisa LeFevre
Keaau, HI 96749
Oct 24, 2013

People should not be penalized for exercising their Constitutional right of freedom of religion. As written, this bill would force people to act contrary to their beliefs for fear of being sued or otherwise penalized. This should be a major concern for even non-religious people. Nor should the government try to rush legislation through that affects so many people. We have the right to know all the implications of this proposed legislation and to vote on it ourselves.

Jean Nodacker
Pahoa, HI 96778
Oct 24, 2013

Bill Hoffman
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Oct 24, 2013

Rachel Brigoli
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Amy Kashiwai
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 24, 2013

Deborah Rafael
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

"If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all."

Cynthia Connell
Haleiwa, HI 96712
Oct 24, 2013

Ramirez Tyler
Kauai, HI 96766
Oct 24, 2013

Bernadette Pleimann
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

Eric Wakabayashi
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

Bryson Pedro
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Protect my religious freedom.

Roy Yamamoto
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 24, 2013

The people already voted!

Patrick and Lesa McCluskey
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 24, 2013

I oppose same sex marriage and believe in the traditional marriage between a man and woman. Protect our religious freedom.

Jacqueline Fuchigami
Keaau, HI 96749
Oct 24, 2013

Mary - Jo Gaspar
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
Oct 24, 2013

Michael Weber
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 24, 2013

Namelelani Akiona
Waianae, HI 96749
Oct 24, 2013

There are not sufficient protections written in the bill for religious leaders, organizations, small businesses or individuals. Vote "No".

Angela Woods
Pahoa, HI 96778
Oct 24, 2013

Let the people vote.

Derek F Cabarloc
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Carolee Fernandez
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Pablo Vesperas
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

KAREN SAMIANO
LIHUE, HI 96766
Oct 24, 2013

Please support religious freedom.

Ruth Kongaika
Laie, HI 96762

Oct 24, 2013

Pesile Kai
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 24, 2013

Ruth Baltch
Mililani Town, HI 96789
Oct 24, 2013

Bree vellalos
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

Claudia Lee
Honolulu, HI 96821
Oct 24, 2013

Please Let Us Vote mahalo

Marni Renner
holualoa, HI 96725
Oct 24, 2013

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stop now!

MCKAY ERNESTBURG
Ka'a'awa, HI 96730
Oct 24, 2013

Janice Kirkham
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 24, 2013

Jaime Kapu
Honolulu, HI 96823
Oct 24, 2013

Jessica Arruda
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

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pat lorenzo
Wahiawa, HI 96786
Oct 24, 2013

We do not support same-sex marriage in Hawaii. Please hear us. Thank you for your service as a representative of the people.

tulifau esene
Wahiawa, HI 96786
Oct 24, 2013

At the least, please place this issue on the next voting ballot for the citizens of Hawai'i to be heard. "No" to same-sex marriage in Hawai'i. Thank you.

aolani esene
Wahiawa, HI 96786
Oct 24, 2013

I am against marriage bill and support only traditional marriage between one man and one woman.

Michael Tuttle
pukalani, HI 96768
Oct 24, 2013

Jaymie
Aiea, HI 96734
Oct 24, 2013

Benjamin Joseph Candari
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Please support the majority in keeping marriage between one man and one woman. We the people already voted on this issue. Please support our choices.

Lylia
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Rhonda Kahalewai
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 24, 2013

Vil Pedro-Vesperas
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

DEBRA SOTO
Lawai, HI 96765
Oct 24, 2013

We have the right have Religious Freedom! This bill is against our religious rights.

Hiilei Vuta
Pahoa, HI 96778
Oct 24, 2013

Caleb X Cheng
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 24, 2013

Let us voice our concerns

Jennifer Inouye
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

George Kamakahi
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Steven Young
honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 24, 2013

People should have the right to religious freedom. Don't restrict us from our religious beliefs. Let the people vote!

Jaime G
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Benjamin Dean
Fairfield, CA 94534
Oct 24, 2013

Raihau young
honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 24, 2013

Let the people decide, constitutional amendment!

Jeff Wong
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 24, 2013

Wendy Volivar
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Chuanlei Lu
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 24, 2013

HONGLI REN
Beijing, China
Oct 24, 2013

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wen ho
honolulu, HI 96815
Oct 24, 2013

Let the people decide!

Dana Hensarling
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 24, 2013

I feel the voters already decided, but in lieu of a special session...put it to a vote again...by the people of Hawaii...let us decide! Mahalo!

Chantal A. Duarte
Waimea, HI 96796
Oct 24, 2013

Shannon Damo
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 24, 2013

All people are able to love whom they want. They are also given benefits when they are civilly united. One of the oldest laws of time is that marriage is between one man and one woman. Will a marriage certificate change how these people feel about each other? I think not, but the Governor's bill will change rights for mothers, people who believe that marriage should be between a man and a woman, teachers, and so many more people in society.

Trisha Sellesin
Waialua, HI 96791
Oct 24, 2013

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to: our government and our governor. stop restricting our rights to our religious beliefs.

sonai nakano
kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 24, 2013

Nerissa
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 24, 2013

Kristin
Captain Cook, HI 96704
Oct 24, 2013

It is our governments role to ensure the rights of religious freedom.

Paul Garner
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 24, 2013

Let the people vote!

Sabrina Price
Hauula, HI 96717
Oct 24, 2013

I am opposed to this "special session"

Derrick Wong
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 24, 2013

Don't people affiliated with religious beliefs that believe should be between a man and a woman have rights too?

EMMALINE IHU
WAIMEA, KAUAI, HI 96796
Oct 24, 2013

G. Greene

G. Greene
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 24, 2013

Ross Akiona
Mountain View, HI 96771
Oct 24, 2013

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joyce tabar
kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Please VOTE NO to same sex-mariage.

Shirley Tovey
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 24, 2013

Allen Kauhi
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

No to same sex marriage.

Christopher c Rothwell
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

Angela Kansou
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 24, 2013

James Matsuzaki
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

Laura K. K. Taua
Waianae, HI 96792
Oct 24, 2013

Alice Cheung
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

Dean young
honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 24, 2013

Monica Cook
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

Gloria Carlile
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Lovey Saludares
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 24, 2013

De Silva Ohana
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 24, 2013

Ma Zhiguo
beijing, China

Oct 24, 2013

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return our right to democracy! let the people decide for the people. put it to vote (again).

alan kimura
honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 24, 2013

Maria Sheila Salud
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

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xiaoxue cheng
Honolulu Hawaii hi, HI 96813
Oct 24, 2013

Please respect religious liberty. Let the people vote on marriage. This is not the responsibility of a temporary group of legislators. Thank you.

Michele LeMone
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 24, 2013

Brandon Tengan
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 24, 2013

Rachel Nihipali
Kekaha, HI 96752
Oct 24, 2013

I agree with our Constitution for the freedom of religion.

Milton Lee
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 24, 2013

Janelle Leong
Lawai, HI 96765
Oct 24, 2013

Mervin
Lawai, HI 96765
Oct 24, 2013

Amelia Galario
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 24, 2013

Johnathan Chin
Hawaii, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

Britney kalua
Waimanalo, HI 96795
Oct 24, 2013

Jordan Estioco
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

Democracy was granted by the people and for the people!

Dillon Ramos
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 24, 2013

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kazumi edwards
kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

Same Sex Marriage Is not fair!!!!

Trey Uehara
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 24, 2013

Same sex marriage is not right!!!

Kainoa Alden
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 24, 2013

Qihui Fan
Honolulu, HI 96848
Oct 24, 2013

DM
Pahoa, HI 96778
Oct 24, 2013

You should vote against this because it is not very smart!!

Benjamin Moore
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 24, 2013

I think its wrong to have same sex marriage because it is not in the bible to say you can.

Aidan Koanui
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

Audrey Wang
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

Erica Neves
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 24, 2013

Harry McIntosh
Naalehu, HI 96772
Oct 24, 2013

Christina Foster
Ninole, HI 96773
Oct 24, 2013

Sandy
Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Oct 24, 2013

Lorraine Nip
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 24, 2013

America was originally created so people could have freedom of religion!! Forcing religions to do things they don't believe in is against the American Rights!!

Rachel Foster
Hilo, HI 96721
Oct 24, 2013

QIN JIA
honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 24, 2013

Julie Pascua
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 24, 2013

God loves us (the world) but hates the sin, anything apart from the Will of God is sin and marriage is between man and woman.

Oliver Tamayo
Pearl city, HI 96782
Oct 24, 2013

Michael Agcanas
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 24, 2013

The same sex marriage is by no means a real marriage recognized by the GOD!

Ning-Shou Xu
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 24, 2013

Please allow the people to vote on marriage! We the people should decide on such community-altering issues. Mahalo, Emily Ching Wright

Emily Wright
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

Winnie Yiu
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 24, 2013

I'm not a resident but I feel it's wrong to pass this legislation. Because as one passes something like this it's like a domino effect.

Beverly jones
Franklin, AL 36444
Oct 24, 2013

John L Anderson
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 24, 2013

A Marriage should be between a Men and a Women Amen!

Donna Sabalburo
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 24, 2013

Gaoyuan Zhang
Honolulu, China
Oct 24, 2013

Kristina calicdan
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 24, 2013

Eva Maile Andrus-Price
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 24, 2013

Cynthia Bortfeld
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 24, 2013

Kara
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 24, 2013

Yihua Xie
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 24, 2013

Yazhi Huang Nie
Honolulu,, HI 96825
Oct 24, 2013

Kill this Bill. Let the people decide. It is our fundamental right to worship without fear of persecution. That is promised to all people in the US Constitution. Our fore fathers fought for this right and freedom of religion should be respected.

joyce castillo
waialua, HI 96791
Oct 24, 2013

Kristy Yip
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 24, 2013

Reka Bordas
Smethwick, United Kingdom
Oct 24, 2013

Istvan Bordas
Smethwick, United Kingdom
Oct 24, 2013

DENISE WONG
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

Sonia Walker-Aki
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Janice Xiao
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

Bing Fu
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 24, 2013

Leone M Saaga
Eagle Mountain, UT 84005
Oct 24, 2013

Linda Rocke
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 24, 2013

Adrienne Garcia
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 24, 2013

Esther Balderas
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Norbert Kitashima
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 24, 2013

Chantelle Witt
Kaneohr, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Breanna Dano
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Tiffany Balangue
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

Shayne Guthrie
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Rochelle Guthrie
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Brock Staheli
Santa Clara, UT 84765
Oct 24, 2013

Vote for NO to SSM Kill the Governor's Bill in Special Session

Linda Chang
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

Kori Alimazo
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 24, 2013

Yes, Kill the Governor's Bill in Special Session.

Linda Chang-Shimaura
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 24, 2013

Kirk K. Ronolo
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 24, 2013

With so few benefitting from this special session, why isn't one being called for homelessness where 100% of our State is being affected.

Mark H. Felmet
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 24, 2013

Vernon Takata
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 24, 2013

Editha Nuesca
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 24, 2013

Roy Nuesca
Honolulu, HI 96819-2559
Oct 24, 2013

Diedra Ulii
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 24, 2013

please dont be on the wrong side of history - everything you do you'll be accountable when you stand before God - THE LIFE OF THE LAND IS PERPETUATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS (NOT UNRIGHTEOUSNESS!!!)

Ronalyn Nuesca
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 24, 2013

Lisa Samtani
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 24, 2013

joan bagood
honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

Iris Wong
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 24, 2013

Aron Chock
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 24, 2013

The long term consequences of such a law impacting our children and citizens is horrific. The present view of this "civil rights?" law does not even concern itself with the future...even in the next year's educating children on the NEW model for what constitutes family life style...reorganizing history from the beginning of God's plan to man's enlightened plan causing confusion and chaos. If this bill for SSM passes the consequences will not only split our state and country but will bring division and loss of religious rights of the majority of our citizens. A few will take away the rights of the many. Freedom of Religion will be minimal. GOD HELP US.

Mary Jo McEnany
Waialua, HI 96791
Oct 24, 2013

I don't want to lose the real family tree with a grandmother, grandfather, aunties and uncles. Where is justice for our younger generation depriving them to experience the joy of the love of mother, father, grandpa, grandma, uncle and aunties. The important cell of a community will be lost forever.

Luz Cabang
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 24, 2013

Cyril Wong

Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 24, 2013

Kimberly Yamaoka
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 24, 2013

Kealoha Hirokawa
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Kathryn McLarn-Kyono
Lawai, HI 96765
Oct 24, 2013

Jingbo Chang
Honolulu, HI 96823
Oct 24, 2013

Owen Chock
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 24, 2013

Kellie Hong
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 24, 2013

Daniel A Parrish
Waialua, HI 96791
Oct 24, 2013

Lorine Paden
Koloa, HI 96756
Oct 24, 2013

I strongly oppose the Same Sex Marriage Bill and ask that you vote No on this bill.

Mildred Kane
Oahu, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Bing li luo
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 24, 2013

Brenda Tai See
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 24, 2013

Leona Chock
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 24, 2013

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shirley Judge
Honolulu, HI 96815
Oct 24, 2013

Alicia Osumi
Pearl city, HI 96782
Oct 24, 2013

Mildred Chargualaf
Kahului, HI 96733
Oct 24, 2013

Emi Osumi
Pearl city, HI 96782
Oct 24, 2013

I am against same-sex marriage. Those of you with children and grandchildren..do you really want them to be indoctrinated starting as such young ages about sex?! Look at those places that have become same-sex marriage states/countries and see how they have fared. Protect the innocence of our children! I remember us as children playing hopscotch, jacks, marbles etc. Protect the children! Let the people vote. Does this law unequivocally protect our churches and religious organizations and our individual religious freedom? I think not...too many loopholes and trapdoors.....kill the bill and let the people decide...not the government. This is too important an issue.

Regina Pascual
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

Stephanie Lloyd
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

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if the bill passes, more uncontrollable problems and issues will emerge within our society, as you can see what is happening to Massachusetts.

Danna Chen
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

Marriage is between a man and women as God intended and invented

Fredric Sigler
Honolul, HI 96825
Oct 24, 2013

No same sex marriage in Hawaii .

Yoly Agsalud
Kapolie, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

Ginger Marcellus
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 24, 2013

No same sex marriage in Hawaii.

Philip Huang
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 24, 2013

Yaru Wang
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

Gloria Santiago
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 24, 2013

Joshtin sadler
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 24, 2013

Mary Ann T. McMillen
Kekaha, HI 96752
Oct 24, 2013

Crystal Bethel
Kapaa, HI 96766
Oct 24, 2013

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please vote no

cynthia a rutkiewicz
honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 24, 2013

Marriage between a man and a woman is how I was born and blessed to be raised up with a male father and female mother. Because of sin many were abused male & female. The devil has plague their thinking and have turned them to a love that is an abomination (not natural) and is trying to make it as though it is okay. I will keep praying that God will set them free from captivity of abuse, anger, bitter, confusion, deception and Jesus rescue them. They need to be set free. Holy Spirit you start operating and turn the hearts around for it's not by power nor by might but by your holy spirit in Jesus name!

Frances Kawelo
Waianae, HI 96792
Oct 24, 2013

Please do not pass this bill without seeking popular vote. This measure failed when last voted on. The religious exemption clause is inadequate to protect my religious freedom. Please do not pass this legislation.

David Georges
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 24, 2013

Let the people vote and decide on whether we want same sex marriages in the state of Hawai'i.

David Murata
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

Kamuela Kimokeo
Ewa beach, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

I support "TRADITIONAL MARRIAGES" Please do not take away my right to say NO

Jo-Ann L Kahawai
Hanapepe, HI 96716
Oct 24, 2013

Joe Wong
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

One man and one woman!

Minxian Du
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 24, 2013

Kendrick Tom
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 24, 2013

Gov Abercrombie, I voted for you..but this is underhanded and denies the people their right to decide on this major issue. If you go through with this you will lose my confidence.

Mark Ryales
kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

Please give careful consideration to what you are doing. Discuss this with people and see that we need to bring this before the state, not assume that this decision is best handled within a short amount of time. Will be praying as you make your decision.

Robert Uyeda
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

Religious freedom cannot be governed

Diane Halas
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Evalani Sproat
Haiku, HI 96708
Oct 24, 2013

I don't agree that such an important bill should be dealt with in a Special Session. Do it justly and let the people be heard and not dictated or misled.

Delro Rosco
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

I oppose to this bill of same sex marriage. A marriage is ONLY between a man and a woman as we were put on this earth for. This is very important that we please kindly stop the Governor's Bill. I thank you and God bless.

Beatrice J Santiago
Kekaha, HI 96752
Oct 24, 2013

Paul Cook
Greenville, SC 29605
Oct 24, 2013

Do not let a small group of good people make a bad decision, allow the people to have a choice.

Joshua Forloine
Mililani, HI 96789

Oct 24, 2013

We had already voted on this issue and the people of Hawaii over-overwhelmingly voted on favor of marriage as being between a man and a woman. Why are you not listening to us? What has changed? Who or what has influenced you to disregard what the people of Hawaii have already decided on. We need to seriously look at new representatives who really have the interests of people and not a select minority that happens to have a squeaky wheel.

Louis Prescott
Hauula, HI 96717-9506
Oct 24, 2013

I am opposed to same sex marriage. Marriage should remain defined as a union between a man and a woman!!

Mildred F. Wong
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 24, 2013

Lauravelle Lewis
Kamuela, HI 96743
Oct 24, 2013

Lets NOT jeopardise what few "Family " values we have left in this country by re-defining relationships.

Garret Santos
Princeville, HI 96722
Oct 24, 2013

Boyd Punua
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

Tina Punua
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

Not in support of current bill, I oppose same sex marriage in Hawaii and believe in traditional mArriage between a husband and wife and would like religious freedoms

Harolyn Wolfgramm
Waimanalo, HI 96795
Oct 24, 2013

Lorna wong
Kaneohe, HI 96734
Oct 24, 2013

Now that you understand our concern, and if you still insist in moving forward with your agenda, then you are not representing me.

Jackie Shen
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

Lynette Mun
Honolulu, HI 96921
Oct 24, 2013

I support traditional marriage and the right to exercise my religious beliefs. Please do not take that away from the people of Hawai'i.

Wendy Ohashi
Keaau, HI 96749
Oct 24, 2013

Jodi Presbitero
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Please withdraw and Same Sex Marriage Bill. Hawaii does not need to change our value system and our rights to maintain our religious beliefs.

Stevette Santiago
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

I don't want this Special Session. Give the People of Hawaii the voice back.

Priscilla Wong
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 24, 2013

Tracy
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 24, 2013

Newton Miller
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Stop the government from restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs.

Lorin Carmichael
Keaau, HI 96749

Oct 24, 2013

Support freedom and families!

Tim Holley
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

I support traditional marriage (one MAN and one WOMAN). We need to prepare the road for the future of our CHILDREN and lead them in the right direction to the way our Lord Jesus Christ has created with Adam and Eve. Amen.

Roberta Ku`ulei Cagasan
Kahului, HI 96732-1420
Oct 24, 2013

Kimberly Hanohano
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Kalei Miyahana
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 24, 2013

I support traditional marriage and the right to exercise my religious belief!

June Munoz
Kapa'a, HI 96746
Oct 24, 2013

Stop the government from restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs.

Ronald Saoit
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

Aileen Galario-Chin
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

Jonathan Pak
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 24, 2013

Stephen Goodspeed
Kailua-Kona, HI 96700
Oct 24, 2013

Erin Gayer
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Let the people decide!

Margaret A Nozawa
Kapolei, HI 96707-1206
Oct 24, 2013

Angie Kaonohi
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Thomson Lo
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 24, 2013

Clive Cowell
Honolulu, HI 96722
Oct 24, 2013

I am signing this petition to add my voice that marriage should be between a man and a woman. However, if they choose to be in a relationship I have no objections. I don't want their union to infringe on my rights to change the laws and to teach my children something I do not believe in.

Jayme Kealoha-Dacuycuy
Hauula, HI 96717
Oct 24, 2013

Gaylen T. Yoshida
Honolulu, HI 96821
Oct 24, 2013

Beverly Hamamoto
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

I favor TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE....I a AGAINST same sex marriage!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Respect my religious freedom:)

gary kuikahi
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Gail Kamalani
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Devin Moncur
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 24, 2013

BELLA SARMIENTO
AIEA, HI 96701
Oct 24, 2013

Ben Hung
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 24, 2013

Kerry Taylor
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 24, 2013

Stephanie McAndrew
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

Barbara McDaniels
Koloa, HI 96756
Oct 24, 2013

Please don't change the definition of marriage as I have grown up and practice to believe. This is not about inequality...homosexuals were given legal rights by having civil unions. I feel it is an inequality to tell me I need to accept something that my beliefs don't support.

Amber
Kalaheo, HI 96741
Oct 24, 2013

Vicky Pang
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 24, 2013

Teodoro C Adres Jr
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 24, 2013

Elijah Frost
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Laurie Palenske
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Sara Camfield
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

Kai daliva
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

Cory Young
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

Wally Thiim
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 24, 2013

Sandra Inayoshi
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 24, 2013

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mark jahnke
waimanalo, HI 96795
Oct 24, 2013

Michele Soto
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 24, 2013

Vote NO!

Fred Tanaka
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 24, 2013

Hailey Mozo
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 24, 2013

Iris T. Mudgett
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 24, 2013

Let the people of Hawaii be heard on this important subject that will change the shape of our communities!

Richard Ho
Kapa'a, HI 96746
Oct 24, 2013

Pomaikai Kekaula
Kamuela, HI 96743
Oct 24, 2013

Stop the government from restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise our belifs.

Jesse Layaoen
Hawaii, HI 96754
Oct 24, 2013

Angie Staheli
Santa Clara, UT 84765
Oct 24, 2013

Alana Peralta
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Heather Jackson
Lehi, UT 84043
Oct 24, 2013

Ana Louise
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 24, 2013

Leon K Dodson
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 24, 2013

Please go to catholichawaii.org to see what is on the books in other states. The general public doesn't understand what is at stake for our children.

cherie lashin
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 24, 2013

Lori Sigler
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 24, 2013

I think the people should have the choice and not the legislators.j

Martin Gomes
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Clifford Juarez
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 24, 2013

Justin Nozawa
Kaaawa, HI 96730
Oct 24, 2013

Sheri Nozawa
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

Let the people decide.

Traci
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Stop this special session! We deserve to be heard. This Bill will forever infringe on our religious and parental freedoms and rights!

Sheri Dano
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

What happened between separation between Church and State?

Gary Smith
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 24, 2013

Leonard Mukai
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Keenan Zerkel
Anchorage, AK 99502
Oct 24, 2013

Gustave Malterre
Kapolei, HI 86707-1323
Oct 24, 2013

Robin metcalf
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 24, 2013

Bill Callahan
Wylie, TX 75098
Oct 24, 2013

Mariel Mohler
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

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all in

Daniel
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 24, 2013

I believe that marriage is between a man and a woman.

Donnis Cazimero
Pearl city, HI 96782
Oct 24, 2013

Grace Wong
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 24, 2013

Lleander Jung
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 24, 2013

Do not rush to pass this bill through. Let the people of Hawaii vote on this important issue that will have great impact on not just same sex couples, but also to religious and non-profit orgs, to businesses that do not share the same values, to school curriculum you may not agree with, and the way the bill is written the child from a SSM may have native Hawaiian rights such as attending Kamehameha school even when the only one with Haw'n blood is one parent.

J. Nancy Faustino
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 24, 2013

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i believe, marriage is between 1 man and 1 woman a

William
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 24, 2013

I believe that marriage is only between man and woman. I stand against a same sex marriage. I want to protect God's covernant.

Shinobu Carmichael

Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Emaleti Mokofisi
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Lorin Evan Carmichael
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Let the people vote! Respectfully and strongly disagree with Governor Neil Abercrombie's Bill trying to legalize same-sex marriage.

Selina Lau
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

Let the people vote!

Andrew Tong
Honolulu, HI 96837
Oct 24, 2013

Ewa Jachimczyk
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Janell Beattie
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 24, 2013

Maluhia Miller
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Doreen Sokolowski
Waianae, HI 96792
Oct 24, 2013

Jacie Atabay
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 24, 2013

Kyle Morrison
Lawai, HI 96765
Oct 24, 2013

JingXie
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

Terri Yoshinaga
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 24, 2013

Let the people vote!! After all " we are the people of Hawaii"

Natasha Flores
keaau, HI 96778
Oct 24, 2013

Claudia Hart
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 24, 2013

I think that if your faith or morals do not agree with same sex marriage you should be able to decline participation in this activity.

Roberta Swanstrom
Eatonville, WA 98328
Oct 24, 2013

Ping Zhong
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

Myra Tiave-Faatea
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

JoAnn Tanoue
PEARL CITY, HI 96782
Oct 24, 2013

Calvin Enoki
Hilo, HI 96729
Oct 24, 2013

Please don’t take away our religious freedoms.

Janae Alexander
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Wilfred Sibayton
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

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cheryl
hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

It seems that the people in office are choosing only to promote the rights of some at the cost of the majority.

Kau'i'onu'alalo Cho
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

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wayne I. Tanaka
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 24, 2013

Brandelyn Hall
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Frances Finau
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 24, 2013

Saia Finau
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 24, 2013

Protect OUR rights!!! We say, NO!!!

SHERILYN KANG
HILO, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

MELANIE
kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

I am for the right to exercise my religious beliefs and stand on God's foundation of truth and what is right.

Lorena Lundquist
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 24, 2013

For traditional marriage and protection of our first ammendment rights.

Lois J Young
WAHIAWA, HI 96786
Oct 24, 2013

I am in support of religious liberty in Hawai'i.

Patricia J Carmichael
Keaau, HI 96749
Oct 24, 2013

Tawna chun
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Christina Seipp
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

SAVE TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE!!!

Vivian Lin
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 24, 2013

Please say NO to the same sexmarriage! Please save the future for our children.

Sujuan Situ
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 24, 2013

Let the people vote

ANGELA QUIROZ
hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Shawn Kyono
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 24, 2013

Danielle Javier-Hodge
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

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todd poliahu
kaneohe, HI 96744

Oct 24, 2013

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corie poliahu
kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Respectfully and strongly disagree with Governor Neil Abercrombie's Bill trying to legalize same-sex marriage.

Jinghai Yang
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 24, 2013

Keriyah Campbell
Keaau, HI 96749
Oct 24, 2013

Lorianne Fukui-Stoos
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 24, 2013

Wendy Reid
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 24, 2013

Mitchell Ho
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 24, 2013

Marriage is an institution before God joining a man and a women. Any union between same sex individuals is a crime agains nature and a sin against God.

Robert Timm Jr
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Stop the special session. This deserves a full vetting with an appropriate timeline and full testimonials.

Jaime McGuire
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

Chao Zheng
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 24, 2013

Rebecca Akiona
Mt. View, HI 96771
Oct 24, 2013

Stella Chang
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 24, 2013

Candice A. Cummings
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 24, 2013

Stop the government from restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs

Mary Scarborough
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 24, 2013

Julie e arias
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 24, 2013

Blake Taira
Honolulu, HI 96821
Oct 24, 2013

Stop the government from restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs.

Zendo Heshiki
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Gail Jordan
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 24, 2013

Debonair Akau
Koloa, HI 96756
Oct 24, 2013

Crystal Goo
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 24, 2013

Bryce Tano
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Melvin Ishikawa
Mililani, HI 96789

Oct 24, 2013

Makee Tano
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

This bill practically goes against the First Amendment, even though they're trying to use part of the First Amendment. They can't change anything relating to religion which marriage is part of.

Michael
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 24, 2013

I vote NO!

Amanda Rand
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 24, 2013

Calvin Kochi
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 24, 2013

Irene Tanioka
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 24, 2013

Traci Kaopua
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Leo Ing
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 24, 2013

Karli
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 24, 2013

I am against a special session. If you have one make it count for the classrooms that don't have A/C. What, 4-5 year problem now?

Lolita P Vidaurri
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 24, 2013

Samlynn Moore
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

Supporter of religious liberty in Hawaii

Eugenia L. Kapapa
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 24, 2013

Lovey Young
Koloa, HI 96765
Oct 24, 2013

Please allow the people to decide.

Gary Hockett
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 24, 2013

Emiko Baker
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

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let the people decide.

winnie chan
honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 24, 2013

Allow the people to decide. Put it to a vote ...so all of Hawaii can voice their opinion

Barry Jay
Honolulu, HI 96821
Oct 24, 2013

Roxanne Kimokeo
Ewa beach, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

Eloise Tyau
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 24, 2013

Mike McGuire
Ewa beach, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

Michael Carlton
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 24, 2013

Please stop the government from restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs

Randy Chinen
Kekaha, HI 96752
Oct 23, 2013

Let the people decide!

Nicole
Naalehu, HI 96772
Oct 23, 2013

The people of Hawaii have already defined marriage as being between a man and a woman back in 1998...has the governor forgotten who his employer is?

Karen Hockett
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 23, 2013

Marriage should be between one man and one woman.

Mason Savage
Honolulu, HI 96821
Oct 23, 2013

Veronica A. Wright
Hauula, HI 96717
Oct 23, 2013

Yvette Carlton
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 23, 2013

Florita Escario
Ewa beach, HI 96706
Oct 23, 2013

Eleanor Doi
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 23, 2013

Judy T
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 23, 2013

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kathleen Sakamoto
Kamuela, HI 96743

Oct 23, 2013

Mia Lesseos
Kurtistown, HI 96760
Oct 23, 2013

If the legislators want to be fair and do what is right, they should let the people decide. Kill the Governor's bill. Cancel the special session.

Gary and Amy Sugawa
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 23, 2013

Kailani Fano
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

Betty Karratti
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

I support only traditional marriage between a woman and a man.

Allyson Savage
Honolulu, HI 96821
Oct 23, 2013

Cory Young
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

Stop the government from restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs.

Derek Peterson
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 23, 2013

The people of Hawaii should have an opportunity to vote on this most important issue. It should not be RUSHED through in a Special Session!

Clara Ogata
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 23, 2013

Rene P. Akimoto
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

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i thought this was america, not forced by the government

ralph chun
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

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sally Wong
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

Arsenio D Dolor
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

Debi Gatrell
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

Ashlyn Crawford
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

Belinda Dolor
Kapaa, HI 96756
Oct 23, 2013

Let the people vote!

Raymond Siu
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 23, 2013

Keep our religious beliefs sacred!! Stop trying to change what we live by!!!! We don't hate gay people...we just don't sustain the life style.

Joseph Fano
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

Robert Bird
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

Shirley Bird
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

We must stop this from passing for the sake of our islands, family and children.

Deborah Lau
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 23, 2013

My family does not agree with this new bill and want our religious beliefs to be protected.

Jerry Tefan
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 23, 2013

I strongly oppose this bill.

Celeste Tefan
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 23, 2013

Nicole
Keaau, HI 96749
Oct 23, 2013

I support religious liberty and marriage defined as between one woman and one man.

Patricia Oellien
Kaaawa, HI 96730
Oct 23, 2013

Naomi Nakasone
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

Dawn Pasikala
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

One Man and One Woman---God's Way

Glenn K. Solem
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

Teri Chun
hilo, HI 96720
Oct 23, 2013

James Matabishop
Hilo, HI 96720

Oct 23, 2013

Richard Au
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 23, 2013

Let The People Vote Please...Thank You

Roxanne Gouveia Torres
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 23, 2013

Jessilyn Ota
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 23, 2013

Walter H Kawaiaea Jr
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 23, 2013

Marlene Lee
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 23, 2013

Totally against same sex marriage, we already voted against it before, Morally Wrong, I say NO...

Russell C.K. Haluapo
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

Lei Kia
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

Mimi Suchinroj
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 23, 2013

Pastor Tom Iannucci
Lawai, HI 96765
Oct 23, 2013

Michael Gameng
Ewa beach, HI 96706
Oct 23, 2013

Kainoa Gameng
Ewa beach, HI 96706
Oct 23, 2013

Khrysten Gameng
Ewa beach, HI 96706
Oct 23, 2013

DarlaDevera
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 23, 2013

James Lorenzo
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

EdoviaLazaro
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

Gregory A Correa
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 23, 2013

Most People for same sex marriage have been victims of child molestation so they have a warped view on marriage. They need to know same sex is not normal or healthy. The parts do not fit together that way for a reason.

Lorraine Apana
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 23, 2013

Tala'ofa Mataele
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 23, 2013

Susi Mataele
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 23, 2013

Churches should not be forced to hold this sinful act in their facility. If there is a church that allows it then it should be their choice to do so it should not be forced.

Janet Abreu
Koloa, HI 96756
Oct 23, 2013

Aiveni Mataele
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 23, 2013

Susan Cheng
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 23, 2013

please protect our religious freedom and traditional marriage in Hawaii for our children. God bless America.

Irene Ming
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 23, 2013

Else Endecott
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

I am against anything that abridge our spiritual belief in the Holy Bible. Same-sex marriage is an abomination to God!

Wyman Au
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 23, 2013

Say No to same sex marriage, unions Etc. compromise comes with a price, our moral values are not based on wisdom of man but of God. Lets seek His wisdom instead of our own.

Paul Tobosa
Pearl city, HI 96782
Oct 23, 2013

Alan Kumalae
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 23, 2013

Please for the Love Of God and people , dont allow this sin to harm the souls of people

edwin nakakura
kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

Kill the Governor's Bill in Special Session please!

Kent Higa
Hilo, HI 96721
Oct 23, 2013

Edwin Bruno
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

No to same sex marriage---many reasons.

anson rego
waianae, HI 96792
Oct 23, 2013

Please keep marriage between a male and female.

Julie Ohara
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 23, 2013

I say no to same sex marriage.

Dionne Nakamura
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 23, 2013

Didn't we already vote on this issue years ago? No same sex marriages? It goes against nature also and will restrict our churches and religious organizations the freedom to practice their beliefs.

Andrea Decker
Mountain View, HI 96771-0264
Oct 23, 2013

PATTY CHONG
KAPAA, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

Bruce
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 23, 2013

Chiu Wang Yeung
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

Ed Terui
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

No to same sex !! Marriage is between a man and a woman, period.

Cielito
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 23, 2013

Mercivel Bsutista
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 23, 2013

Danielle
honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 23, 2013

Mahalo

Haunani
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

Pauline Kuhia
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 23, 2013

Please stop government from restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs.

Valerie Roland
Koloa, HI 96756
Oct 23, 2013

Byron Dizon
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 23, 2013

Jerry Recamara
WAILUKU, HI 96793
Oct 23, 2013

Natalie Fitzgerald
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 23, 2013

Shane Tanioka
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

Raymond K. Fujii
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 23, 2013

David Chun
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 23, 2013

I no longer live in Hawaii because of civil unions. I am sorry to say I will not recommend visits to the state to my friends, family and acquaintances because of it. I will only return to the state one more time because I have to. Hawaii has lost so much of it's Aloha and will lose more with same sex marriage. Sorry to say, same sex marriage will be the tipping point for many not to visit the state or return. I do not believe I am alone.

Beverly Larranaga
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
Oct 23, 2013

Shirley Zhuang
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 23, 2013

Nohealani Daliva
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

Philander and Juanita Aganus
Kamuela, HI 96743
Oct 23, 2013

Let the people of Hawaii decide on Marriage.

Teresa A. Bryan
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 23, 2013

Rosa
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 23, 2013

Maria
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 23, 2013

I am concerned with the infringement on my First Amendment rights if this bill is passed, and I have extreme concern in re-defining a God-ordained institution, which has stood since the beginning of time.

Mike Ward
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 23, 2013

This is in support of religious liberty.

Linda Nishigaya
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 23, 2013

Jon L. Koki
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

Lenny Farm
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 23, 2013

Vanessa Perez
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 23, 2013

I do not support the Special Session on Gay Marriage. It is against my religious beliefs on marriage

Puanani Soong
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

Kathleen Mendenhall
Salt Lake City, UT 84121
Oct 23, 2013

I strongly support Religious Liberty in Hawaii.

GUY KAPELIELA
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 23, 2013

Blaine
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 23, 2013

Isaiah 3:9 "The shew if their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves. " KJV

Marie Pico
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

Lyle McMillan
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 23, 2013

If same sex marriages were natural, the human race would cease to exist. I don't hate the people, I just don't agree with what they believe they're doing is right.

Michael Alesna
Aiea, HI 96701

Oct 23, 2013

Candace
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 23, 2013

The bill pertains to people, let the people of Hawaii decide and vote on this bill.

Laura Dizon-Vegas
Lawai, HI 96765
Oct 23, 2013

I am in support for traditional marriage, and please kill the Governor's bill in favor of same sex marriage.

Aniana Diane Pursell
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 23, 2013

I support the democratic process of having the people decide on Same Gender Marriage.

Mike Kai
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 23, 2013

Preserve Marriage between one man and one woman only.

Brian K F Chang
HONOLULU, HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

Lolita Arnold
wahiawa Hi,, HI 96786
Oct 23, 2013

EDSON Y S LEE
AIEA, HI 96701
Oct 23, 2013

Christine M. Kilborn
Koloa, HI 96756
Oct 23, 2013

Kell Tanabe
Kihei, HI 96753
Oct 23, 2013

We cannot have this in our state!!! God loves His people but hates the sin.

cynthia rabina-houck
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 23, 2013

Lin
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 23, 2013

Please leave the decision of whether or not to legalize same sex marriage to the people of Hawaii. Please let the people decide. Mahalo.

Leslie Toyozaki
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 23, 2013

Pearl Soong
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 23, 2013

We the people of the State of Hawaii have the right to vote on the issue of same sex marriage, not the governor and congress of Hawaii. Please listen to the people, this is why we elect our representatives, Democrats or Republicans, we the citizens of the State of Hawaii. Thank you.

Gregg & Coreen Nelson
Naalehu, HI 96772
Oct 23, 2013

Leni Tanabe
Kihei, HI 96753
Oct 23, 2013

William Herrera
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 23, 2013

Please stop this bill!! It's simply unfair.

Katherine A. Jensen
Kaneohe, WA 96744
Oct 23, 2013

Kathy Neizmen
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 23, 2013

Michele Okimura
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 23, 2013

Shunxing Jiao
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 23, 2013

Grace Chun
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 23, 2013

"We the people", are voicing our choice for traditional marriage and freedom of speech. It is time for our legislators to listen!!!

Vincent Beazie
Waianae, HI 96792
Oct 23, 2013

Olevia Ifopo
honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 23, 2013

Kosta Naum
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 23, 2013

Laauli Ifopo
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 23, 2013

Caryn Lau
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 23, 2013

Marissa Teraoka
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 23, 2013

Victoria Mottteler
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

Sangato Letisi
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

Justina Cruz
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 23, 2013

Crystal Castillo
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 23, 2013

This special session is truly a personal selfish interest of this governor with his little friends. First, he asked for civil union, he got it. Now, his friends want same sex marriage, and threatened us with legislature's decision to be ok with the majority of Hawaii's population. Please, support the majority of Hawaii and "STOP" this Loser from invading our Families and values. Mahalo, Iameli

Iameli I. Kaio
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 23, 2013

We have the right to preserve the sanctity of our beliefs and places of worship. Must we violate one to afford another?

Joni Tanuvasa-Letisi
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

Religious freedom is guaranteed by our Constitution. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." You have no right to restrict our religious beliefs.

Kuulei Wilton
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 23, 2013

Marla Spencer
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 23, 2013

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save our traditional marriage!

Patricia Mau
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

Harry Quemado
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 23, 2013

This is simply unconstitutional.

Dalys Tapusoa
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 23, 2013

Cory Quemado
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 23, 2013

Please listen to the voters in the State of Hawaii, as we have unanimously voted against this previously.

Emily Needham
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 23, 2013

Pam
Wahiawa, HI 96786
Oct 23, 2013

Beverly Mau
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 23, 2013

We cannot loose our religious freedom!

Cheryl Kauwe
Kailua-kona, HI 96740
Oct 23, 2013

Amante Galario
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 23, 2013

Jan Tetsutani
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 23, 2013

I am in favor of Traditional Marriage NOT same sex marriage

Paul Kaneshiro
Pukalani, HI 96768
Oct 23, 2013

Calee Leong
EWA BEACH, HI 96706
Oct 23, 2013

Please listen to the voters in the State of Hawaii, as we have unanimously voted against this previously.

Curtis H Nishiyama
Honolulu, HI 96821
Oct 23, 2013

Jane Jin
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

Hua He
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

Li Chung Ming
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 23, 2013

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let the people vote!

Jeff Ng
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 23, 2013

Leatha McConnell
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 23, 2013

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lourdes tupper
ewa beach, HI 96706
Oct 23, 2013

Thomas
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 23, 2013

Joshua Burton
Kekaha, HI 96752
Oct 23, 2013

Please stop this bill from passing, it is hurting more than our religious freedom, it is also hurting our families!!!

Daryl Goo
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 23, 2013

Mike
Waimanalo, HI 96795
Oct 23, 2013

LaVanda Salas
Papaikou, HI 96781
Oct 23, 2013

Ken Arima
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 23, 2013

Robert N. Uyefa
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 23, 2013

VOTE NO! To same sex marriage. Defend the 1st Amendment of the US Constitution and the State of Hawaii ammendment in 1998 which the people gave the power to the Legislature to define marriage as one man and one woman, nothing else! Or let the people decide

Fentn S G Lee
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 23, 2013

Allan Talbert
Waianae, HI 96792-4929
Oct 23, 2013

Let the people decide.

Daryl
Waimanalo, HI 96795
Oct 23, 2013

Preston Lingaton
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

Miki
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

Laura Lei Kekauoha
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 23, 2013

Sherri Shimamoto
Kapolei, HI 96707

Oct 23, 2013

James Texeira
Kailua Kona, HI 96745
Oct 23, 2013

Support traditional marriage (one man and one woman) only. Let the people vote.

Sandra
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 23, 2013

Nathan Tomioka
Kalaheo, HI 96741
Oct 23, 2013

Charlene Han
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 23, 2013

Anna Marie Morikone
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

Mike Krzywonski
Haleiwa, HI 96712
Oct 23, 2013

Dolores a Bledsoe
Honolulu, HI 96815
Oct 23, 2013

The government needs all the help they can get excluding religion from school is the biggest mistake its like saying you don't believe in the constitution anymore. Its like saying this country is not free anymore. "IN GOD WE TRUST." Put prayers back in schools and the Pledge allegiance. The government is screwed up why screw with the peoples freedom of rights.

Barbara Thompson
Brigham City, UT 84302
Oct 23, 2013

Jeffrey Dunster
honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

Liang Wang
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 23, 2013

Lupe Piena
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 23, 2013

Tiare Vainerere
Hauula, HI 96717
Oct 23, 2013

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support religion freedom

Zheng Lan
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 23, 2013

Ken Reyes
Honolulu, HI 96815
Oct 23, 2013

Ye Jin
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

Lynelle Noda
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 23, 2013

Let people vote

Raymond Carpenter
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

I believe in The Traditional Marriage.

Kerri Ambrosio
Kamuela, HI 96743
Oct 23, 2013

Mei Pang
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

Sal Yaris
Pukalani, HI 96768
Oct 23, 2013

Joseph Bybee
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

Oct 23, 2013

Fauoro Solomone
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 23, 2013

Please stop the Governor's Bill in Special Session!

Joan Corrigan
ewa beach, HI 96706
Oct 23, 2013

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kele sunia
honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 23, 2013

Carolyn Villamor
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

Hannah Wong
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 23, 2013

Ben Fontillas
KANEOHE, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

Please protect our religious liberties!

Deb
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

Yihong Wu
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

Wing Kaida
Honolulu, HI 96821
Oct 23, 2013

I stand for marriage as between one man and one woman and let the people decide.

Francis Chang
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 23, 2013

Jacky Cheung
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

Letitia Kyono
Lawai, HI 96765
Oct 23, 2013

The people of Hawaii voted in 1998, why are we wasting money for a special legislation?

Merton D. Davalos
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 23, 2013

Pita Tanuvasa
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 23, 2013

Jerry Young
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

Support traditional marriege (one man and one woman)only

Benny Fan
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

Luciile J Meek
Pepeekeo, HI 96783
Oct 23, 2013

The rights of another must not bind the hands of the other.

Scott Hallmark
Ewa Beach, HI 96707
Oct 23, 2013

Keri Kiesling
Lahaina, HI 96761
Oct 23, 2013

Rev. Tinpo Lai
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

Nicholas Lam
Aiea, HI 96701

Oct 23, 2013

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not agreed with same-sex marriage

TRACY LIANG
HONOLULU, HI 96814
Oct 23, 2013

Teri Cheung
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

Kelci Wandell
Kihei, HI 96753
Oct 23, 2013

This bill is unconstitutional! Our country was built upon principles set forth by our founding fathers. A house divided against itself cannot stand. I support traditional marriage as being defined between a man and a woman. As a parent, I also worry about how it will impact the curriculum in the schools, teaching "education," like how to have safe homosexual sex to our children! Let the people decide!

Ramona Okimoto
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 23, 2013

Joni Yeung
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

Edith Nalani Flinn
Waianae, HI 96792
Oct 23, 2013

Kyle Nitahara
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

Stop the government from restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs.

Pui Ching Lin
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 23, 2013

Todd Hairgrove
Honolulu, HI 96830
Oct 23, 2013

Ellen White
Militant, HI 96789
Oct 23, 2013

Eveline Wunder
Pukalani, HI 96768
Oct 23, 2013

Please exempt religious organizations from participating in same-sex marriages in anyway, both facilities and clergy. Please ensure the language in the bill is clear.

Gregory D. Burton
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 23, 2013

Denise Burnett
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 23, 2013

Let the people vote.

Vera Tong
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 23, 2013

Laurie Cooper
lijue, HI 96766
Oct 23, 2013

Wayne Chi
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 23, 2013

Brant Matsuda
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 23, 2013

Let the people vote as in 1998!

Donald k Okami sr
LIHUE, HI 96766
Oct 23, 2013

Let the people vote. No special session on Govenor's bill.

Laurie Wong
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 23, 2013

Brendan Porick
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 23, 2013

Jed Young
LIHUE, HI 96766
Oct 23, 2013

Gina hind
Honolulu, HI 96926
Oct 23, 2013

Joy bazan
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 23, 2013

Vote No, for the following: 1. Let the people decide 2. Do not pass "as-is" or any "hurried fashion",prior to this becoming law, the language must be fully vetted - to protect the religious freedoms for all individuals and institutions.

Eric Austin
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 23, 2013

I am wholeheartedly against this special session and believe that it needs to be voted on by the registered voters of this state.

Sonny Shimaoka
Kamuela, HI 96743
Oct 23, 2013

Let the people decide.

Angie Gabat
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 23, 2013

Stop the government from restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs.

xiangang Li
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

Bonnie Lo
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

Tom & Emily Laidlaw
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 23, 2013

Molly A Williamson
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 23, 2013

Lois Austin
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 23, 2013

Please respect the wishes of the people of Hawaii. We have already voted on this issue.

Cynthia Urbach
Makawao, HI 96768
Oct 23, 2013

Caroline Burton
honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 23, 2013

Stop the special session, what's the rush, give Hawaii's people a chance to speak

russ higa
honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 23, 2013

Janet Grace
Honolulu, HI 96815
Oct 23, 2013

Chrystal Crawley
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 23, 2013

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jie bai
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 23, 2013

David Ameen jr
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 23, 2013

Paulette Perkins
Kahului, HI 96732
Oct 23, 2013

KUULEI MARTINS
hi, HI 96752
Oct 23, 2013

Aaron Cordeiro
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 23, 2013

Kill the Governor's Bill; NO Special Session; NO TO SAME SEX MARRIAGE!

Louis L Gonzales
K, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

Damon Clark
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 23, 2013

Please stop the Governor's bill that will, restrict our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs!

Mary Mabel Todd
Kihei, HI 96753
Oct 23, 2013

Don Wisniewski
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 23, 2013

Jeremy Foster
LIHUE, HI 96766
Oct 23, 2013

I support religious liberty in Hawaii.

Robin Chinen
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

Zhu, Min
Honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 23, 2013

Jose & Jolina Felix-Keamoai
Eleele, HI 96705
Oct 23, 2013

Michael S.
Anaheim, CA 92801
Oct 23, 2013

Traditional Marriage

Vanell K Naum
Waianae, HI 96792
Oct 23, 2013

For reasons given in this petition, plus a) it skirts the democratic process which would allow ADEQUATE public input & b) wastes taxpayer dollars, the SPECIAL SESSION SHOULD BE CANCELED!

Carol Nakata
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 23, 2013

Let the people's voice count

Sam Kapu
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 23, 2013

Kelsie Dizon
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 23, 2013

Please allow the people to vote

Peggy Ciriako
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
Oct 23, 2013

Ann Ward
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 23, 2013

Carl E. Harris
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 23, 2013

NO! to Same Sex Marriage!!!!

Ernell H Gonzales
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

Larie Manutai
Honolulu, HI 96826
Oct 23, 2013

Please protect our religious rights Please protect our children. Allow the people of Hawaii to vote on this issue.

Sandra Dela Cuadra
Kapolei, HI 96707-1926
Oct 23, 2013

James Stern
Honolulu, HI 96815
Oct 23, 2013

Please protect our religious freedom and kill the governors bill in special session.

Kathryn Nishie
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 23, 2013

Rod Shimabukuro
Honolulu, HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

I do not support a bill that will allow marriage between couples of the same sex. I believe it is and always has been the will of the people and as such so be voted on by the people and not by the few. Please do not circumvent our constitutional rights by conveneing this session on behalf of this bill

bryan jeremiah
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 23, 2013

Brook K. Parker
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

Alyse Thomson
Honolulu, HI 96822
Oct 23, 2013

Carla Simao
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

Jackie Pauole
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 23, 2013

Brianna Acosta
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 23, 2013

Please protect our religious rights.

Drena Parker
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

Kerrie Woodall
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 23, 2013

Doug Kozub
LIHUE, HI 96766
Oct 23, 2013

Selina Ortiz
Ewa beach, HI 96706
Oct 23, 2013

A. Stephen woo Jr
HILO, HI 96720
Oct 23, 2013

Raegan Diana
Anahola, HI 96703
Oct 23, 2013

Joshua Sandobal
kilauea, HI 96754
Oct 23, 2013

This bill discriminates against people of faith and our right to freedom of expression! This question should come before the people who will be affected forever.

Kent Kitagawa
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 23, 2013

Gill berger
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 23, 2013

Miranda Ching
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 23, 2013

John
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 23, 2013

Laura Moniz
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 23, 2013

Stacey Chinen
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

Peniette AhPuck
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 23, 2013

Christine Farias
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 23, 2013

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manuel r rodriguez
princeville, HI 96722
Oct 23, 2013

Robert E. Walden
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Oct 23, 2013

I hate to see the United States become like the country I came from--the elected elites of Hawaii think they know better than the majority of the people--and do not allow us to decide on those issues that impact our families and faith.

Yong Melton
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 23, 2013

Dave Barr
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

Sandy & Tom Gonsalves Jr.
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

Preston Ebinger
lihue, HI 96766
Oct 23, 2013

Rachel Dela Cruz
Lawai, HI 96765
Oct 23, 2013

James Mundon IV
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 23, 2013

Dina Bybee
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
Oct 23, 2013

Please let the people decide!

Kelsey Mundon
Lihue, HI 96766
Oct 23, 2013

Ray Ho
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

Nathan Malauulu
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 23, 2013

Stephanie Funtanilla
Eleele, HI 96705
Oct 23, 2013

Please protect our constitutional rights. The special legislative session disenfranchises the voters of Hawaii and infringes upon our First Amendment rights. The bill does not protect the free exercise of religion. At a minimum this bill should be considered during a regular session where proponents and opponents can provide sufficient input. A five day session to consider legislation that will transform all aspects of Hawaii's society forever is inadequate and unjust. In reality this should be decided by the people of Hawaii not 76 legislators.

Danny Melton
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 23, 2013

Jaclyn
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

Let the people of Hawaii excercise their right to vote on this issue.

Kurt and Tia Viluan
Kapaa, HI 96746

Oct 23, 2013

Rachel Kalama
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 23, 2013

Please do not allow same sex marriage in Hawaii or please let the people decide.

Matthew Higa
Kapaa, HI 96746
Oct 23, 2013

Nancy Matsumoto
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 23, 2013

Barbara Honda
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

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susan kanda
WAIANAE, HI 96792
Oct 23, 2013

This country has always lived under god and it shall stay that way.. taking away our churches is a sin!!

lester barredo
honolulu, HI 96818
Oct 23, 2013

Phyllis A Young
Honolulu, HI 96825
Oct 23, 2013

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let's do it in regular session in 2013 to fully discuss and hear the public heart

colleen nomura
Hon., HI 96816
Oct 23, 2013

Kill this bill ridiculous bill. I support traditional marriage

Matthew Vidaurri
Aiea, HI 96701
Oct 23, 2013

SAY NO NO TO SAME SEX MARRIAGE.

sam sail
keaau, HI 96749
Oct 23, 2013

The Constitution of the United States gives us religious freedom. How can a governor take it away?

Nancy Underwood
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 23, 2013

Dylan Bullock
Makawao, HI 96768
Oct 23, 2013

Why is Hawaii the only state having a rushed special session over this issue? Please respect the democratic process and let the people decide on marriage!

Cheryl Toyofuku
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 23, 2013

Sherry Arkangel
Keaau, HI 96749-8228
Oct 23, 2013

Mat
Pukalani, HI 96788
Oct 23, 2013

Ridiculous

Kanoe Bertlemann
Kamuela, HI 96843
Oct 23, 2013

Jarrah Sivertsen
Hauula, HI 96717
Oct 23, 2013

Kiana Johnson
Wailuku, HI 96793
Oct 23, 2013

Vote NO.

Sunshine Bolen
Honolulu, HI 96817
Oct 23, 2013

kailey
kihei, HI 96753
Oct 23, 2013

Alexa Hough
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 23, 2013

Roberta Duncan
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

Rick Lazor
HONOLULU, HI 96822
Oct 23, 2013

They are stomping on our religious and parental freedoms and rights as they are trying to afford for "equal" rights?!!! Stop the injustice. Stop building walls and start building bridges!

Brennan Dano
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

Vote NO on SSM bill!!

Wayne CORDEIRO
Honolulu, HI 96814
Oct 23, 2013

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jennifer rapoza
hilo, HI 96720
Oct 23, 2013

Protect the hutch and our sacrilegious leaders! They have a right to their beliefs! Marriage has always been sacred to religion! Don't strip the church of their religious practices! It is unconstitutional!

Azure
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 23, 2013

Brian Akahoshi
Honolulu, HI 96819
Oct 23, 2013

Please vote NO on the same sex marriage bill. This impacts our society beyond the ceremony. Let the people decide!

Andrew Large
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Oct 23, 2013

Erika Pagan
Keaau, HI 96749
Oct 23, 2013

Trisha
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 23, 2013

LeGrand Goo
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 23, 2013

Lance Takai
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 23, 2013

Lii Purcell
Aiea, HI 96702
Oct 23, 2013

Same sex marriage is an attack on all that promotes life and moral decency. Massachusetts chose this path and now those that even mildly disagree are being persecuted under the guise of "it's the law". It's the law alright, a law that promotes perversion against all that would not have it in their families. A grotesque perversion of all that is obviously natural and right. The rights of those that hold to traditional marriage need to have their constitutional rights protected, and this bill doesn't do it.

Christopher Melvin
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 23, 2013

Let the people decide on this issue. I support traditional marriage.

David Mejia
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 23, 2013

Aaron Alapai
Hlolualoa, HI 96725
Oct 22, 2013

Dallin Tanabe
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 22, 2013

Stop the government from restricting our churches and religious organizations the right to freely exercise their beliefs.

Abbie Mejia
Kailua, HI 96734
Oct 22, 2013

Let the people decide !

Betty Chee
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
Oct 22, 2013

I am not in agreeance with this bill at all. This bill is prohibiting many different religions to practice the freedom that many people have died over. Jesus Christ has taught that marriage is a sacred constitution that is between men and women and within that sacred bond we are to bring children into this world. I am married and I have a 15 week old son and I want him to be raised on the teachings of Jesus Christ, and to honor what the bible has taught us all these years. Heavenly Father gave Adam and Eve (not Adam and Steve or Eve and Jean) to multiply and replenish the earth and that commandment continues on today. If this passes that commandment is being rejected and it demonstrates that the state of Hawaii does not care at all about Heavenly Father nor his commandments.

Christal Tonumaipea
Laie, HI 96762
Oct 22, 2013

Let the people decide on this issue that has broad ramifications!

Ben Tamamoto
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 22, 2013

LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE

Song Kenyon
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 22, 2013

Please let the people decide on this important issue!

Phil Yasuhara
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 22, 2013

It seems that my rights to educate children within my private school are not as important as others who wish to impose a harmful and immoral lifestyle on young minds. Please allow us to keep our rights to choose how our hearts lead us to educate our children. Thank you.

Rose Marie Simpson
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 22, 2013

Why are we wasting tax payers money for a special session. If you must waste money on this issue, put it to the people to vote, next election.

Sharon
Pearl City, HI 96782
Oct 22, 2013

Marsha M Krieger
Hilo, HI 96720
Oct 22, 2013

Robin Sapla
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 22, 2013

Let the people decide marriage.

Carrie Borge
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
Oct 22, 2013

Please let the people of Hawai'i Nei vote on Marriage. This is something that will impact our lives for ever. Please listen to the people of Hawai'i.

judy Taqgerty
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
Oct 22, 2013

Teri Espinosa
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 22, 2013

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richard p vae
ewa, HI 96706
Oct 22, 2013

Tasia Ststler
Captain Cook, HI 96704
Oct 22, 2013

Let the people decide.

catherine kinney
Kealakekua, HI 96750
Oct 22, 2013

Roland M Ho Jr.
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 22, 2013

I support traditional marriage. Please kill the bill in the special session coming up.

Karen Jones-Remigio
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 22, 2013

LET THE PEOPLE VOTE ON THIS ISSUE!

Michael Bennett
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
Oct 22, 2013

Jared Chun
Haleiwa, HI 96712
Oct 22, 2013

chet
kailua kona, HI 96740
Oct 22, 2013

Noelani Kaupiko
Kealakekua, HI 96750
Oct 22, 2013

Victoria Black
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 22, 2013

Let the people choose on this important moral issue.

Pablo Penaloza
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
Oct 22, 2013

Alex Contreras
Kailua Kona, HI 96745
Oct 21, 2013

Akamine, Gayle
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Oct 21, 2013

Please Let The People Decide

David Ross
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745
Oct 21, 2013

Risiti Liugalua
Waipahu, HI 96797
Oct 21, 2013

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danielle lewis
kapolie, HI 96706
Oct 21, 2013

The Executive branch is not the one to write legislation...and the people spoke on this issue less than 10 years ago. No to this special session and to changing the definition of marriage in Hawaii.

Debra A. Tobler-Rydin
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 21, 2013

Ruth Pila
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct 21, 2013

April Figueroa
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 21, 2013

Laurie Burgess
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 21, 2013

Malachi Maglaya
kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 21, 2013

Thank you for starting this position! Our God, our families and our public accommodation owners should NOT be discriminated against while we support same sex marriages.

Keith Kenyon
Kapolei, HI 96707
Oct 21, 2013

I wholeheartedly agree!!

Shelby Pruitt
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 21, 2013

Jared Pruitt
Mililani, HI 96789
Oct 21, 2013

From: Jayne G
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Hawaii Marriage Equality Act
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 6:51:55 PM

Aloha,

My name is Jayne Gubler and I am a resident of Oahu, Hawaii. I am testifying on the state measure before the Senate on Marriage Equality. I am testifying in opposition to this bill.
I have researched and compared Hawaii's marriage equality act to that of other states and find that Hawaii's is far too intrusive on the rights of independent organizations of faith. I myself attend a church that does not endorse same-gender marriages yet our clergy will be forced to perform them or face legal action. I feel that the freedom of worship how we please in our private church facilities is just as important as that of public accomodations, separate but equal.
Please take into account what the majority of the people of Hawaii want when you consider this bill. I feel strongly that your voting public do not agree with the current version of this bill.

Mahalo for your service.
Jayne Gubler
55-463 Moana Street
Laie, Hawaii 96762
808-234-9122

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Jean Tsuda and I vote in Senate District 24 and House District 50.

I am speaking to voice my opposition to Bill SB1 and this Special Session.

I am a voter who takes by civil responsibilities seriously and have voted ever since I was old enough to do so. You legislators were given the opportunity to represent us, to champion the cause which we, your constituents believe to be representative of the majority of the people. Voting yes on SB 1 is not a vote representing the majority of the people. The issue of same sex marriage is too important and complex to be relegated to a special session where there are only 2 public hearings scheduled as compared to the usual 5 in regular session. It has to be vetted properly in regular session. Special sessions are held for emergency situations or events such as 9/11 and the Super-Ferry or to correct technical flaws in our laws. Governor Abercrombie unilaterally called for the special session. No other state (34) is rushing in special sessions on this issue. At no other time has our Governor acted on his or her own to pass a law in special session.
The democratic process is being circumvented. The voters should be given the opportunity to decide on this issue in a constitutional amendment in 2014.

Thank you.

From: Eldean Kukahiko
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:47:22 PM

FOR SENATE HEARING 10/28/13 10:30AM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jeanette Kukahiko. My address is 47-237 Waihe'e Road. I am 7/8ths Hawaiian and proud of it. I am a mother of 6 and a grandmother of 22. I am in opposition to Same Sex Marriage for the following reasons:

1. This bill will hurt my children, grandchildren and all children of Hawaii. As I see it the schools will be forced to teach the homosexual life style which will directly conflict with my parental teachings of my Hawaiian ancestral traditions and my Christian faith. As it stands- THIS IS NOT PONO!

2. I believe that I have the right to raise my family with values that is lawful, morally right and has been right for over 2,000 years, and now you think that in 5 days of a special session you will be able to hear from all the people you represent to help you make an informed decision? I respectfully DISAGREE

3. LET US THE PEOPLE VOTE. IF YOU AR SO SURE THAT THIS IS WHAT THE PEOPLE WANTS, THEN LET US VOTE…….OR DO YOU THINK WE ARE NOT CAPABLE?

4. DO IT IN THE REGULAR SESSION-SLOW DOWN AND DO IT RIGHT

Sincerely….Jeanette Kukahiko

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marraige because of our heartfelt concern and compassion for the future of our state. I concern over the physical, mental and emotional problems that will beset those who choose the homosexual lifestyle, and I object to what this will do to our community, my children and to my traditional family life. Evidence clearly show that children must be raised in a traditional family environment to thrive and to grow.

In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

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bigwavetomatoes@gmail.com

October 27, 2013

STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Aloha Honorable Chair Clayton Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We agree in the State's ability to grant Civil Unions so a man can marry a man or a woman and another woman, as they choose.

PLEASE Make necessary changes to LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE on changing marriage. It is unfair to have such a HUGE decision be made, by a few legislators. This is a non-inclusive approach, compared to all-inclusive approach, that considers to HEAR ALL THE CITIZENS.

Setting limits on the rest of the population is not pono, nor portrays social justice and is unfair to the rest of us.

This bill HURTS and does not HELP our island community. This bill Helps one small group of people and discriminates against another group, that may not even be a resident of our island community. It hurts facilities ability to outreach and help everyone. We elect government officials to PROTECT ALL. This bill LIMITS RELIGIOUS PROTECTIONS.

Money is the root of all evil and this bill appears to look to protect commerce of one groups interest, while taking away liberties from the majority.

This bill prevents one group to extending Aloha to all. This bill sets limits on the activities to invite all, by limiting the facility to be shared with non members of a facility, due to "public accommodation" and the threat of law suits.

This bill is bias and unfair and does not recognize the toll and impact this will have on future generations because of imposing a will on one sector of the population who have religious convictions.
Sincerely, Jeanne Vana……..PLEASE OPPOSE

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

It is with great concern that I write to you regarding SB 1; I strongly feel that passing this bill undermine the moral constitution of our state's culture. Such an important decision should not be made through a Special Session rather this important topic ought to be voted on by the people of Hawaii as it was in 1998. With approximately 70% of the populous opposing same sex marriage in 1998, it is incomprehensible to think that the majority of the people of Hawaii now feel differently on this subject, the fact that some would disagree with this assertion only serves to underscore the importance of allowing the people of Hawaii to vote on this subject.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jeffrey Mullis

From: Jennifer Bryant
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB 1 - Same Sex Marriage - Written Testimony
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:17:45 PM

To the Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1 - Relating to Equal Rights; Marriage Equality
Special Session
Hearing Date / Time: Monday, October 28th, 2013; 10:30 am

Aloha, Senator Clayton Hee, Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, and Senator Donna Kim Mercado,

Thank you for taking the time to read and acknowledge my testimony. I realize that your time is valuable, so I will be brief.

I wish to express my opposition to this Senate Bill as relating to Marriage Equality, or in essence Same Sex Marriage. I am a voting constituent in the McCully / Moili'ili District and I believe that the passing of this bill will forever shape the way our first amendment rights and the way we educate our children will be lived out.

I am a former middle school teacher in California and the Hawaii D.O.E., and current preschool director in downtown Honolulu. The ramifications of making no difference between genders (not only by giving them the right to marry, but by gender neutralizing language in documents and in practice of common language) will place proverbial cuffs on our parents and educators from teaching children the very real differences between boys and girls, men and women, and some of the traditional, yet necessary roles they occupy in society.

I am not against the union of two people who commit to love each other, but the act of marriage carries so much more weight, and changing that will leverage groups like the LGTB alliance to push for more and more rights just as they have done in Canada - since 2005 this country has struggled with the obliteration of *parental* rights to teach their children without the government getting involved through the schools, and allowing sexual education to enter the curriculum as early as *first grade.*

This issue is so much more than stopping bullying and anti-discrimination against homosexuals, it will trample on freedom of religion, speech, and education of ALL individuals. Educators and school counselors can still counsel students who have gender identity issues and discourage bullying of all kinds, even without marriage equality. The message can still be focused on the individual person or even partners who wish to continue their civil unions.

Please do not allow our state to change the face of equal rights and have a negative affect on how we raise our children. Thank you again for your time - please make the right choice for your children and grandchildren.

Most Sincerely,

Mrs. Jennifer Bryant

--
Assistant Director

Ke Aloha Ho'okahi Preschool
670 Auahi Street, #A4
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 440-8916 office
(808) 441-5633 fax
Website: www.kahpreschool.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/kahpreschool

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to there being a Special Session on any same-sex marriage issue.

Same-sex marriage is not a civil right. No court (including the United States Supreme Court) has ever said that same-sex marriage is civil right. In 2002, the **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** rejected the complaint that New Zealand banned same-sex marriage violating civil right.

It is my opinion that the issue of same-sex marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawaii voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same-sex marriages. The use of a special session limits my opportunity to voice my opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does not represent the will of the people.

Please let the people decide on marriage.

From: Jeremy Honold
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:51:50 PM

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I believe the people of Hawaii should decide this matter. I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session. Something of this magnitude should not be decided in one week, nor should every voice in the islands be ignored.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. We were founded on letting the people have their voices be heard. By closing the doors and letting a small group decide the fate of an entire state, I believe you are saying no to democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jeremy Honold
Kapolei, HI 96707

From: Joan Yanazaki
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:19:35 PM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I believe that our laws and the system that is set up to govern our people were set in place so that decisions that affect all of us are not made by just a few. In 1998, all of our people had the opportunity to make their voices heard on how our state should define "marriage" and decided by a 69% - 28% majority, that marriage would consist of the legal union between one man and one woman. There was much discussion, debate, and TIME given to the public to allow voters to thoughtfully determine their choice on this important matter. And we did!

I am not in favor of same-sex marriage and I do not feel that it is right for *some* of our legislators to disregard the vote of the people of Hawaii by rushing and pushing through legislation in six days that will affect our state and its people forever.

You, our legislators, would be acting against the people of Hawaii and the federal court ruling of August 8, 2012 (Jackson vs. Abercrombie) by attempting to overturn the vote of our people. You do not have that right. The people of Hawaii gave you the right to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman. According to the Jackson vs Abercrombie ruling, "to suddenly constitutionalize the issue of same-sex marriage 'would short-circuit' the legislative actions that have been taking place in Hawaii…. Accordingly, because Hawaii's marriage laws are rationally related to legitimate government interests, they do not violate the federal Constitution."

It is my understanding that the recent ruling by the Supreme Court did not say there is a constitutional right to same-sex marriage. But rather, for those states who have allowed same-sex marriage, these couples cannot be denied the federal benefits that married couples receive. However, Hawaii does not allow same-sex marriage so we are not violating anyone's constitutional rights or withholding any due benefits. Please do not twist the facts and confuse our people to make them think that Hawaii is doing something wrong.

As representatives of the people of Hawaii, I ask you to represent the people of Hawaii with honesty and integrity. You were not placed in your position to push forward your own personal or political agenda but rather, to represent the voice of your constituents. The people of Hawaii spoke out in force in 1998. Please listen to and represent the voice of our people. May God lead you and guide you to make the right decisions for the right reasons.

"The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in **Righteousness**"

Sincerely,
Joan Yanazaki
3142 Francis Street
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: Tracy Hao
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Fw: Personal Testimony of same sex marraige issue
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:39:12 PM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

MY NAME IS JOANNE WISINSKI AND I LIVE ON MOLOKAI
I am thankful that we live in a country where we have a voice. I am thankful to you who represent us, for all your hard work. Being out in the community I believe the majority of the voice of the people is asking for a NO vote on this. I am a mom, grandmother, a greatgrandmother and this is areal concern. I believe our children are a God given gift, not to be taken lightly. I believe we all have a right to make choices, but not to make changes to accommodate our choices, Please consider a NO vote.
Mahalo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: joey_eaton@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:19:41 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/24/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jocelyn Eaton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposing this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From:	Joey Carroll
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Same Sex Marriage
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:09:22 PM

I am opposed to Same Sex Marriage. I feel this issue should be put on an election ballot, and should not be decided by government officials. Please - Let the people of Hawaii decide, what is best for Hawaii's future.
Mahalo,
Joey Carroll

Sent from my iPad

From:	John Wesley Nakao
To:	JDLTestimony
Cc:	"John Wesley Nakao"
Subject:	TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY: LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE SAME SEX MARRIAGE
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:01:50 AM

JOHN NAKAO
99-1720 AIEA HEIGHTS DR.
AIEA, HI 96701
485-8888

HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE HAWAI'I STATE SENATE, MY NAME IS JOHN NAKAO; I AM THE OWNER OF AN INSURANCE BROKERAGE IN AIEA & I AM AGAINST THE INDOCTRINATION & FREEDOM CHOKING BLIGHT OF SAME SEX MARRIAGE IN HAWAI'I. THIS IS WHY:

IN 2003, MASSACHUSETTS BECAME THE FIRST STATE TO LEGALIZE SAME SEX MARRIAGE. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THAT, HOMOSEXUAL GROUPS BEGAN PROMOTING, QUOTE "MARRIAGE EQUALITY" UNQUOTE, IN HIGH SCHOOLS TRICKLING DOWN TO THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL. THEY THEN BEGAN PROMOTING GAY LIFESTYLES, EVENTUALLY USING LITERATURE SHOWING WHERE STUDENTS COULD MEET WITH GAY MEN & DESCRIBING GRAPHIC GAY SEXUAL PRACTICES. PARENTS COULD NOT OPTION OUT THEIR CHILDREN FROM THIS INDOCTRINATION. ANY PERSON, BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION, WHO DISAGREED FACED THE POSSIBLITY OF A SUIT, POSSIBLE ARREST & OFTEN PERSISTENT HARRASSMENT BY GAY ORGANIZATIONS. (LOCALLY, SENATOR GABBARD LOST HIS FAMILY RESTAURANT BUSINESS THROUGH GAY PICKETTING, HIS CHILDREN WERE TRAUMATIZED & HIS CAR VANDALIZED BY GAY HARRASMENT IN RETALIATION FOR CREATING A ORGANIZATION TO PROMOTE TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE VALUES.) GAY MARRIAGE IN MASSACHUSETTS HAS BECOME A POLITICALLY CORRECT STRANGLEHOLD TO FIRST AMENDMENT FREEDOMS OF SPEECH, CONSCIENCE & RELIGION. DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO THE CITIZENS & ESPECIALLY CHILDREN OF HAWAI'I.

IT IS AN EMBARASSMENT TO ALL OF US THAT DEMOCRACY IN HAWAI'I - THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE & FOR THE PEOPLE - HAS BEEN VIOLATED BY THIS SPECIAL SESSION CALLED FOR THE EXPRESSED NON-EMERGENCY PURPOSE OF PASSING THE SOCIAL CANCER OF SAME SEX MARRIAGE UPON THE PEOPLE IN FIVE DAYS. HISTORY TELLS US THAT A COUNTRY COLLAPSES FROM DECAY THAT COMES FROM WITHIN THE SOCIETY. TRUTHFULLY, I AM EMBARASSED FOR YOU THAT WE NEED TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TO TESTIFY THAT THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE IN HAWAII DO NOT WANT SAME SEX MARRIAGE HERE.

IN MEMORY, ONLY TWO OTHER SPECIAL SESSIONS HAVE BEEN CALLED FOR EMERGENCIES OF THE FAILING OF THE SUPER FERRY & TO ASSESS THE 9/11 ATTACK IMPACT ON HAWAII. GAYS REPRESENT 5% OF HAWAI'I'S POPULATION – WITH LIMITED PUBLIC OR SENATE/HOUSE LEADERSHIP INPUT, GOVERNOR ABERCROMBIE ARROGANTLY CALLED THIS SPECIAL

SESSION TO RAILROAD SAME SEX SPECIAL INTERESTS OVER THE OBJECTIONS OF AT LEAST HALF OF THE PEOPLE YOU CLAIM TO REPRESENT.

AS YOU KNOW BETTER THAN I DO, THERE HAS BEEN AN UNPRESIDENTED NUMBER OF CALLS & EMAILS TO YOUR OFFICES ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE DUE TO THE DEEPLY FELT & BROAD IRREVERSABLE SOCIAL RAMIFICATIONS OF THIS LAW. THIS IS INDEED A PUBLIC ISSUE AFFECTING ALL OF US & THUS SHOULD BE AN ISSUE THAT ALL OF US DECIDE BY VOTE. SO STRONG ARE FEELINGS REGARDING THIS ISSUE, MANY LIKE MYSELF BELIEVE YOUR "YES" VOTE FOR GAY MARRIAGE WILL RESULT IN A "NO" VOTE FOR YOUR RE-ELECTION! YOU CAN CHOOSE YOUR REPRESENT ONE ELEMENT OF YOUR PARTY PLATFORM OR THE WILL OF PEOPLE WHO ELECTED YOU.

I THEREFORE ENCOURAGE YOU, DEAR SENATE MEMBERS, BE BOLD & COURAGEOUS - DO NOT CAVE IN TO POLITICAL PARTY CORRECTNESS TO ESTABLISH HOMOSEXUAL PREVILEGES OVER THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF YOUR CONSTITUENTS. THE LIFE OF THE LAND IS PERPETUATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS. PLEASE DO WHAT RIGHT, DEMOCRATIC & REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE THAT YOU REPRESENT BY ALLOWING THE PEOPLE WHOM SAME SEX MARRIAGE WILL AFFECT – ALL OF US – DECIDE BY VOTE THE FUTURE WE WANT FOR HAWAI'I.

John Wesley Nakao
99-1720 Aiea Heights Drive
Aiea, HI 96701
(808) 485-8888

From: Jonna Lewis
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Fwd: Senate Hearings Same Sex Marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:41:14 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposed to the proposed legislation for the following reasons:
1. We should not be having a Governors Special Session. This should be decided by the vote of the people and not the legislature.
2. We should not be reinventing the definition of marriage. This will result in a seismic shift in cultural values and this will help erode even further protection for children, women and families.
3. I feel this will take away my religious freedom.

I OPPOSE THIS BILL, VOTE AGAINST ALL LEGISLATION SUPPORTING SAME SEX MARRIAGE.

Jonna Lewis

From: judyarthuronmaui@aol.com
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Same sex marriages and SB NO 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:49:14 AM

I AM AGAINST THIS BILL AND SAME SEX MARRIAGES! JUDY ARTHUR

Personal Testimony Presented Before
the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair
Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

October 28, 2013, 10:30 am *(hearing date and time)*
by
Justin Akagi
700 Richards Street, #1002
Honolulu, HI 96813

Opposition for SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights
(Not testifying in person, submitting written testimony only)

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to the Senate voting on same sex marriage during this special session.

It is my opinion that the issue of same sex marriage should be voted on by the public (just as it was back in 1998) so that every single one of your constituents will have the opportunity to have their individual voice heard. Although the Senate members represent their constituents when voting on many issues, I believe that a decision of this magnitude should be made by all members of the community with adequate time to make an informed and educated decision, rather than a small subset (who represent some, but not all of their constituents' opinions on issues).

Instead of voting "yes" for same sex marriage during this special session, please consider not voting or abstaining from a vote, so that we can ensure that an irrevocable decision of this magnitude will not unknowingly affect our other Constitutionally-guaranteed civil liberties.

I also believe that many potential consequences of this bill have not been taken into formal consideration (as should be the case before making a decision of such magnitude), such as the effects on religious freedom, the educational system in Hawai'i, the economy, and the community.

Before making this decision, more comprehensive research should be done on other states and countries that have legalized same sex marriages, and how that decision has affected their communities and civil liberties (e.g., religious freedom). I believe that if we allow Hawai'i's citizens to vote on same sex marriage, there will be time for the entire community to make an informed and educated decision on the matter. It does not seem that due diligence is being met by making the decision to vote on a bill of this magnitude during a special session.

Please do not make this enormous decision without your constituents truly having a voice in the decision of this issue.

From: Justine Kadokawa
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:36:28 PM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We are writing to voice our opposition to Bill SB1 relating to equality.

We strongly feel that the legalization of same-sex marriage could have detrimental consequences for our state and residents. Not only for families today, but also for our future generations. We ask that you please consider our concerns.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Justine Kadokawa, Patricia Kadokawa and Jody Kadokawa
95-1076 Ahea street
Miliani, HI 96789

From: Kali Fermantez
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I"m a voter and I oppose same sex marriage
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:48:10 AM

Aloha,

As a registered voter and lifetime resident of Hawaii I strongly oppose same sex marriage because of my religious beliefs - marriage has and should continue to be defined as between a man and a woman, and children are entitled to being raised in this kind of traditional family. Further, I feel this issue should be decided by a vote of the people -NOT in a special session.

However, if same sex marriage is legalized in Hawaii, we need stronger exemptions for religious organizations, clergy, and businesses - the proposed bill does not protect our freedom of religion.

Mahalo,

Kali Fermantez
55-285 Kamehameha Hwy
Laie, Hawaii 96762

From:	karli
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:04:56 PM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Karli Miyata, and I am a 36 year old lifetime resident of Hawaii. **I oppose SB1** and redefining “marriage”. (Would it be ok to redefine "native Hawaiian" just so we all can apply to Kamehameha Schools and receive other benefits of native Hawaiians? I don’t think so.)

I am not in opposition to the gay & lesbian community. We all have free will, and whatever we choose does not make one any more or less of a human being. God loves us all equally. Although I believe that gays & lesbians should have certain rights, I also believe that our existing rights to freedom of speech, religion & conscience should be protected first and foremost. As written, SB1 does not guarantee that protection. There is clear evidence that these rights have been infringed upon in every place that has legalized same-sex marriage. So I urge you to not let history repeat itself. Please protect our right of choice too.

Holding a special session and rushing such a weighty decision is not the proper way of handling this. Please do the right thing and let the people decide. Mahalo.

Sincerely,
Karli Miyata
98-458 Kilihea Way
Aiea, HI 96701

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: kathyshelton920@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:17:20 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
kathy m shelton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I Would Like For You On My Behalf Not To PasS The Same Sex Marriage, I StanD For A Marriage Between A Man And Woman As In The Bible. Thank you

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I would like to thank you for the opportunity to give you my testimony in regards to Senate Bill 1, or the State of Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

I feel that this legislation needs to be voted on as an Amendment to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii. If a decision of this magnitude, which will directly and indirectly affect so many of our citizen's, and the future of generations to come, is not placed on the ballots for an amendment it would be a slap in the face for democracy. A vote was held on similar legislation in 1998, and I strongly urge you to consider this action.

Both sides have an argument for their views. Both sides have provided testimony here today.

Regardless of what is required at the minimum to pass this legislation through this special session, I ask that you do the right thing and move to suspend Senate Bill 1, or the State of Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, and introduce the necessary legislation for a vote by the people to make an amendment to the state constitution.

The results of that vote should be the determining factor. Once the vote is completed, a clear vision of where the majority of voters stand on this issue will be provided.

That would be the correct time to move this bill forward if it is warranted, not now.

Thank you.

From: Kaye Katherine Destacamento
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Opposition to bill S.B. NO. 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:27:40 AM

I am Kaye Katherine Destacamento. I am young wife; just got married few months ago. I am testifying in regards to S.B. NO. 1 and let it be documented that I personally oppose this bill and any fraction thereof. I am taking this stance: I know and believe that marriage should just be between a man and a woman. I can't imagine the world having children who have parent with the same sex; it's not healthy for them psychologically, emotionally, and socially. How can we have a better future if our future generation is not taught with correct values? I appreciate the time you have spent in hearing my position, which again is opposition to bill S.B. NO. 1.

Sincerely,
Kaye Katherine Destacamento

From: Eldean Kukahiko
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 5:11:56 AM

FOR SENATE HEARING 10/28/13 10:30am

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kehaulani Quinata. I am a student at Windward Community College and I live at 47-237 Waihe'e Road. I am opposed to Same Sex Marriage because I do not understand all the problems that is ahead for us because of this legislation. I hear from other states that it is very bad for the regular people. Why don't we learn from the other states what works and what does not?-then present that to us and let us decide.

Sincerely, Kehaulani Quinata

October 25, 2013

I am strongly against same sex marriage. Financial gain seems to be at the root of this strong push toward same sex marriage in this special session. However, over time it will not be a benefit to our state but rather a hindrance because of the negative impact it will have on the morality of our state. It will weaken the basis for our society, the family unit.

Instead of pushing same sex marriage through for financial gain please let the people vote on this very important issue.

Thank you,
Kellee Emmerich

From: yasuharak@aol.com
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:05:28 PM

10/25/13

Hearing date: 10/28/13

OPPOSITION to SB 1
Ken Yasuhara

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Since the governor is NOT allowing any amendments to this bill, all testimony directed toward amending this bill is moot and a waste of time for all of us here. Therefore, I would like to address the process by which this bill is trying to be approved.

DEMOCRACY has been defined as a government in which decisions are voted upon by the public.

Some how, it feels as if the democratic process is being circumvented here.
Why the urgency to get this bill passed so quickly? If it were for tax purposes, why aren't the other 34 states where SSM is not recognized also not clamoring to get a similar bill passed ASAP?

Shouldn't the role of an elected official be one that represents their constituent's voices and not trying to advance ANY personal agendas?

I believe it is extremely irresponsible and even dangerous when an elected official ignores the majority of their constituency and does what ever he or she wants based on his or her own personal beliefs.

Because SSM is such a heated, emotional issue, it is extremely difficult to converse with someone intellectually or analytically on the subject. It truly is a matter of the heart.

Regardless of what your personal views are on this issue, I believe this bill should be struck down. If you disagree with this bill, then vote NO; if you agree with this bill, I ask that you also vote NO so that the PEOPLE can have an opportunity to have a say in this emotional issue.

I cannot, in good conscience, and for the sake of my daughter and my family, let this issue go unchallenged on my watch without at least voicing my concerns and speaking out against this bill.

I ask that you vote NO on this bill, and let the PEOPLE VOTE on this critical issue!

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Yasuhara

Sent from my iPad

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: keonimay@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:20:07 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Keoni Ronald May	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Greetings to the Senate: I have family & friends, who are gays & lesbians. It is far easier for me to accept, a Civil Union, as long as gays & lesbians have, all of the Legal Rights of a Marriage. I don't want the definition of a marriage, to be redefined, in the 21st Century. This institution has existed for thousands of years. Once Legislators redefine marriage, even the Bible can be legally challenged. Freedom of Religion, will cease to exist. Political Correctness, can redefine, all religions. Respectful Regards, Keoni Ronald May Roosevelt Graduate Viet Nam Veteran Old KCC Graduate UH Graduate Active Registered Voter Queen Emma Hawaiian Civic Club Member

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: kerriewoodall@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:35:55 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kerrie Woodall	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I believe that marriage is for the purpose of having children and that only extends to a male/female relationship. Keep Civil Unions for same sex couples. Don't redefine marriage, it is the destruction of civilization as we know it.

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Kevin and Sylvia Kondo
2370 Jasmine Street
Honolulu, HI 96816
Email: sylviak2370@gmail.com
Phone: (808) 497-5700

October 25, 2013

Subject: Opposition to SB1 Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Honorable House Speaker Joseph Souki,

Our family would like to register its opposition to same sex marriage being voted on at the upcoming special session on October 28, 2013. We speak for many of our neighbors who are loyal citizens of this great nation and State of Hawaii. The majority of the citizenry voiced its support of traditional marriage back in 1998. It would be very wrong to go against the citizen's choice, and instead attempt to legislate same sex marriages in this special session. This would fly in the face of what has been the norm from the beginning, and will fly in the face of what God ordained for marriage. Same sex marriages would further destabilize our culture and create untoward problems both for us now and for our posterity. Children need the stability of a father and a mother, and experience has shown that alternate family structures can never replace this. We face so many problems with single parent families, why would this State desire to take on even greater problems with same sex marriage.

You must consider carefully the impact your vote will have, to either strengthen or weaken this great State both now and for future generations. Do you want your names to go down in history associated with a measure that has been perpetrated upon our State by a vocal minority? Our hearts go out to our youngsters who will inherit the problems that will be created if you allow same sex marriage to prevail. We urge you to stand behind the majority of the citizens of this State, and vote no to same sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Kevin and Sylvia Kondo

From: Kevin Hanna
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Sopecial Session on Same Sex Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 3:55:25 PM

Though the Special Session now seems imminent, please remove from the agenda or or vote down the Same Sex marriage (SSM) bill proposed by the Governor's office.

The calling of a Special Session was never intended as a vehicle to change social behavior and make social public policy, it is a mechanism to handle legitimate emergencies which "REQUIRE" a timely response.

The SSM initiative in no way fits this intent.

The Special Session does not allow for adequate public input and/or the amending the proposed legislation. While I recognize that there are two days scheduled out of the 5 or 6 days of deliberation, this is not sufficient to hear the testimony of most of the people of these islands. To my knowledge, both of these hearings are in Oahu and none that I now of here in Hilo where or any of the other islands.

This is not the sort of issue that should be rushed into, just so that a very few may benefit for the tax implications which are sited as one of the main reasons to push this though quickly.

What is the MOST important result of this battle is not the passage or failure of any one legislative item, it is the adherence to the the democratic process.

If the public is not engaged in the processes on such an important issue, then indeed Democracy have taken a severe blow.

Please do not subvert the democratic process by forcing the issue in special session.

Please remove the Same Sex Marriage bill from the agenda of this session and allow the people of Hawaii to be stake holders in both this issue and the process of government.

I have voted in every election since I became of age, and that will not change in the future. However, who I elect or re-elect to represent will very much depend on the outcome of the next few days.

Sincerely,
Kevin Hanna

From: Kevin McNamara
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Equal Rights
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:09:12 AM

Please do not promote same sex marriage. It destroys the basic family structure out nation was founded on and grew strong on.
Thank You,
Kevin McNamara
PO Box 631930
Lanai City, HI
96763

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Opposition To SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in strong opposition to SB 1.

Hawaii already has provided for Civil Unions, which grants the maximum amount of Equal Protections that a State can provide to a Same-Sex Couple.

There is NOTHING further to gain by taking on the subject of marriage equality, except for FEDERAL benefits and recognition -- in which case, it is a FEDERAL battle, not a State battle.

The burden is upon the Federal Government to extend Federal benefits of Marriage to those in Civil Unions, as well as Domestic Partnerships.

As the Marriage-Equality proponents prominently say, "The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry."

I am all for equal Civil Rights in Hawaii, and am confident Hawaii has sufficiently provided that with our recent passage of Civil Unions.

To now ask the People of Hawaii to consider anything further is an outrageous waste of time and resources; but should it move forward, said issue should be placed on a ballot for the Voting Public to decide.

Please discard this bill to allow the issue of marriage equality to be fought in its proper arena in the National Spotlight. Hawaii has already met the challenge of providing Equal Rights to same-sex couples by providing for Civil Unions.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: larryd143@earthlink.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:53:28 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/24/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
LAURETO N DRAPESA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose same sex marriage. And it should be the people's will that decide it's legality, and not the Governor or the legislature.

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From: Mildred Kane
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong Opposition to SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 12:16:29 PM

To: The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

From: .Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence B. Kane

Dear Chairperson Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

We understand that are now reviewing SB 1 "Relating to Equality" a bill that, if enacted, will forever redefine marriage in Hawaii. On October 28, the Senate Judiciary will be having a hearing and if it passes, you will be asked to vote yes or no! I understand the same process will happen as the bill makes it way through the House of Representatives.

This email is to ask you, please, vote NO on any piece of legislation that would redefine marriage. ***At the very least, a constitutional amendment should be placed on the ballot next year so that we the people can make our voice heard on this important issue.***

As you consider the legislation before you, I want to make it very clear that we do not support same-sex "marriage."

Same-sex marriage should not be passed in a special session because:

- A five day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time.
- No amendments can be made to legislation. As a result, true democracy is made a mockery of.
- Hawaii is the only state rushing into special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision. If the need was truly dire, then why haven't the other 34 states that do not permit same-sex marriage done so?
- A "yes" vote during special session is a "no" vote to democracy because the voice of the people is NOT heard in a five-days special session, especially if that voice is "amend the bill"
- The people believed they voted on this issue in 1998 – the polls (allegedly) show that Hawaii favors same-ex marriage. So why not let the people vote?

Same-sex “marriage” is not merely about same-sex couples getting “married.” It is about new marriage and family norms and values being imposed on society by the government, with threat of punishment for those who do not conform, or who will not abandon their deeply-held moral beliefs or values which are now recognized as the norm. Wherever same-sex “marriage” is legal, individuals, businesses, organizations, and even churches have been punished. People have been fined or sued, or lost their jobs, for merely posting their beliefs on Facebook or for stating what is in the Bible. The time restriction on testifying prevents us from listing more examples. But I hope that you our lawmakers do not deny the reality that the LGBTQ activist movement are poised to do all they can to turn our society upside down with lawsuits and with further legislation to impose their values on our culture, beginning with children in the schools. Their local leaders have very recently stated that besides same-sex “marriage”, two priority goals are to make gender reparative therapy illegal in Hawaii, and to require every school to have a Gay-Straight Alliance organization.

We learned from the media that the majority of our lawmakers had decided to approve same-sex “marriage”, long before the public could be heard. This special session is rushed and does not give ample time for us to be heard and for you, our lawmakers, to carefully consider the repercussions of same-sex “marriage.”

I respectfully ask that this bill be rejected, for many serious reasons. In 1998, we the people of Hawaii thought we voted for marriage between opposite-sex couples. Please do not betray us by dishonoring the will of the people. I join the tens of thousands of people who are shouting for our lawmakers to allow the people to decide on marriage. **I ask you to pass legislation which will allow us to vote once again on a Constitutional Amendment to preserve marriage between one man and one woman.**

Respectfully submitted.

Lawrence B. and Mildred C. Kane

24 October 2013

Aloha Chairman Hee and esteemed members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee,

My name is Leila Ikemoto Lee. I am a small business owner, a mother, and a grandmother which is why I am writing today for a sense of urgency.

I am humbly asking our elected officials to delay the special session until a regular session, so enough information can be disseminated and heard about the same-sex marriage bill. A lot has been heard and said about civil unions, but not nearly enough on same-sex marriage.

I am also wary about this bill as to its effect on religious liberties and how it may affect my convictions as it relates to my business.

Lastly, as a grandmother, I wish to see my precious grandchildren grow in a place where their religious beliefs are protected and are fostered and are free to grow. This is the legacy I wish to leave them — a land where King Kamehameha III proclaimed, "We the people of Hawaii, grateful for Divine Guidance, and mindful of our

Hawaiian heritage and uniqueness as an island State, dedicate our efforts to fulfill the philosophy decreed by the Hawaii State motto, "Ua mau ke ea o Ka aina i Ka pono."

Thank you for allowing me to briefly state my position. It is wonderful to participate in our legislative process.

Mahalo,

Leila I. Lee
5233 Keikilani Cir.
Hon., HI 96821

From: Leo Alarcio
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 5:29:17 PM

October 26, 2013

Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I strongly oppose this SB 1 relating to equality. It is my deep concern that this will bill affect our current and future generations.
I strongly believe in a marriages that is a man and a woman. I believe that a same sex marriage will alter the course of our state for the good of the people.
I want to express that I have no ill feelings towards the people who believes in same sex marriages but I will not vote for this bill to pass, and it is the right of the people to vote on this issue and not solely on the governor's decision.

Respectfully,

Leonardo Alarcio
Leonardo078@msn.com

October 25, 2013

Testimony **AGAINST** SB1

Aloha,

I am OPPOSED to the Same-Sex Marriage Bill. Please vote NO on SB1!

I respect and love my fellowmen. I respect the right of all US citizens to choose their way of life. But this law will infringe upon MY fundamental & constitutional rights to freedom of speech and freedom of religion. These are far more valuable than giving a few of the citizens of Hawaii the right to receive Federal Marriage Benefits.

Please preserve our states' fundamental freedoms. Please vote NO to the Same-Sex Marriage Bill!

Mahalo!

Linda Reece

56-250 Leleuli St.

Kahuku, HI 96731

From: Lisa Kitagawa-Akagi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Please Do Not Support Same Sex Marriage - Written Testimony
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:55:43 PM

Personal Testimony Presented Before

the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Sen. Clayton Hee, Chair

Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

October 28, 2013, 10:30 am *(hearing date and time)*

by

Lisa Kitagawa-Akagi

700 Richards Street, #1002

Honolulu, HI 96813

Opposition for SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights

(Not testifying in person, submitting written testimony only)

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that I am opposed to the same sex marriage bill (SB 1).

It is my opinion that the issue of same sex marriage should be voted on by the public just as it was back in 1998 when the majority of citizens in the State of Hawai'i voted to approve a constitutional amendment against same sex marriages. I would like to have my voice heard, as well as the voices of many others in our district who do not agree with the same sex marriage issue.

Instead of voting “yes” for same sex marriage during this special session, please consider not voting or abstaining from a vote, so that your constituents will have the opportunity to have their voices heard (either through a vote or through a longer legislative session which would allow for more dialogue around this issue and the ability to make amendments to bills) and

we can ensure that a decision of this magnitude will truly reflect what the people of Hawai'i want in regards to the same sex marriage issue.

I also believe that there are a lot of ramifications of this bill that have not been taken into consideration (at the depth and level that it should be). I believe that there would be negative ramifications of this bill in relationship to religious freedom, the economy, the educational system in Hawai'i, and the community. I feel that there has not been enough research done on other countries and states that have legalized same sex marriages and how that decision has affected their communities. I believe that if we wait to either allow Hawai'i's citizens to vote on same sex marriage or have a discussion on it during the regular legislative session, there will be time to conduct this type of research. It seems a bit rash to approve such a bill when there are so many possible ramifications to consider, as well as the significant impact that it will make on our state.

Please do not make this enormous decision without your constituents truly having a voice in the decision of this issue.

From: Lisa Marlowe
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Opposition to Bill SB1
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:43:29 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to this being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
Lisa Marlowe
Laie, HI 96762

From: Lynn Sawyer
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Hearing on 10/28
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:16:50 PM

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to protest the Special Session on same-sex marriage. I think that this issue needs to be dealt with in a regular session and include the vote of the people. We believe that the people voted on this issue in 1998. If the polls show that Hawaii favors this law, then why not let the people vote? We are the only state rushing into this, and a 5-day session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time.

It is our Legislators responsibility to respect and insure fundamental democratic principles. Since the people addressed this issue in 1998, we should be the ones consulted again. **Marriage is NOT a civil right, and no court (including the Supreme Court) has ever said that it is.** A **constitutional amendment** would better address same-sex marriage AND allow for ample public input. *Please do not make a mockery of our democratic rights and procedures!*

In addition, the governor's current bill will NOT protect church facilities (contrary to what he wants you to believe). If your church offers a public service (i.e. preschool, community group meetings), by definition, your church is a *public accommodation* and would be legally obligated to sanction a same-sex marriage if requested. ***This is in direct violation of First Amendment rights!***

PLEASE ALLOW OUR VOICE TO BE HEARD!

Loretta L. Sawyer
2629 Kinoole Street
Hilo, HI 96720

From: Lynn T. Keahi
To: JDLTestimony; JUDSStestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:48:57 AM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor; and Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees:

I vehemently oppose legalizing same-sex marriage in the state of Hawai'i. I believe that such a measure is in gross opposition to a scared, timeless principle of the sanctity of marriage between a man and woman; further, it will compromise religious freedoms and will undermine vital morals crucial to the well-being (physical, spiritual, emotional, etc.) of our society.

If such a law is passed, what protections will be afforded for the exercise of religion, when our pastors will be required to marry same-sex couples and our exercise of religion violated? If there is no protection granted for our freedom of religious expression, then this law to permit same-sex marriage is flawed and should not be passed.

Over the years, our freedom of religious expression has long since been violated as alternative lifestyles are permitted to be taught in our schools, and our opposition for such curriculum squashed. We are ill afforded protections for the freedom of religious expression in advocating for traditional marriage, pro-life vs. abortion, teaching creationism, freedom of expression through prayer, and abstinence when teaching our youth about sex education in our public schools. I can no longer be passive in allowing government to create laws which will further compromise our freedom of religious expression.

Further, Brian J. Grim and Roger Finke, *The Price of Freedom Denied* and Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom study, provides societal benefits of religious freedom quantified:

- Religious freedom promotes stability in a pluralistic society, but when limited, it correlates to increased violence and conflict.
- Wherever religious freedom is high, there is more economic prosperity, better health, lower income inequality and prolonged democracy.
- Religious freedom directly correlates with the protection afforded other civil and human rights; if some agency can control the yearnings of faith and conviction, then that agency could, in James

Madison's words, "sweep away all our fundamental rights," such as freedom of speech, press and assembly.

Laws are established to guide and regulate appropriate behaviors in our society. How will such a law benefit our society when moral fundamentals are compromised?

It should be noted that I oppose the legalization of same-sex marriage, the continuing degradation of our freedom of religious expression, and the compromise of essential moral values for the benefit of our society; however, I do not oppose an individual's right to choose their pursuits in life. I honor and value our unique qualities, and can truly accept an individual for who they are - charity never faileth.

Please consider and accept this testimony in concert with those who oppose legalizing same-sex marriage as you convene your 2013 Second Special Session. May you have the wisdom needed to convey a vote which will impact our society today, and that of our posterity for generations to come.

Most grateful for your service and consideration,
Lynn Lastimado-Keahi

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marriage because Same Sex Marriage violates Chinese Tradition.

American Chinese are very serious about family. We tell the youth that taking care the elderlies in the family is their duty. We finance businesses through family. We borrow money to buy properties through family. We obtain the best education through family.

We know from our hearts that we need love from father and mother, so we apply the same to others. Our children need love from their father and mother as we do.

Same Sex Marriage bill is going to destroy Chinese tradition. We want our local boys and girls know that rearing family biologically is the best. We want to give the best to our future.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

From:	Malia Kaai-Barrett
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	Special session on Same Sex Testimony
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 5:04:21 PM

October 24, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Judiciary & Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capital 407
415 A. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96817

Dear Chairman Hee & Committee Members;

I strongly URGE you to allow this issue to come to the people through a vote. I simply cannot understand why we can vote in 1998 and vote on Civil Unions but we can't vote on this issue.

I want the opportunity to use MY voice in this issue.

The Legislature is stealing our / MY voice as citizens of this State. This is our civic right!

It is our / MY opinion that this issue of Same Sex marriage should be voted on by the public and be allowed to be brought before the entire state via the voting ballot.

The use of THIS special session limits our / MY opportunity to voice our opinion on this issue and may result in legislation that does NOT represent the / MY will of the people you have been elected to represent.

It should NOT be decided upon by either our Governor or the State Legislature.

Let the voices of the citizens of our state have their voices heard on the issue of same sex marriage.

(capitalization used for emphasis)

Sincerely - a frustrated and concerned Voter.

Malia Kaai-Barrett
Henry Barrett Jr.
241 Kapalu St
Honolulu, HI 96813
524-3078
mkaaibarrett@gmail.com

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	mauricemoo@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:51:03 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/24/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Mamao Mo'o	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I would like to voice my opposition to SB1. I am for traditional marriage as currently defined between a man and a woman and I am for protecting religious freedoms as currently constituted. Please let the people choose on this very important matter. Let it be written that I oppose SB1!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Marcia Harris
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony In Opposition to SB1 related to "equal Rights"
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:12:19 PM

October 26, 2013

To:Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee
From: Marcia R Peterson-Harris
Re:Testimony in OPOSITION to SB1, relating to “Equal Rights”
Hearing Day & Date: Monday, Oct. 28th
Hearing Time and Place: 10:30am in the Hawaii State Capitol Auditorium

To: Chair, Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair, Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro and members of the Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee

I am writing in strong opposition to Bill SB 1. I am asking that you let the people decide.. Let the people's voices be heard! I still remember - of the people, by the people, for the people! In 1998 the ballot question to voters was "Shall the Constitution of the State of Hawaii be amended to specify that the Legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples?"
The people decided in 1998, the people must decide today. We did not give the Legislatures the power to re-define marriage, rather, reserve it for opposite sex couples only. It is very important that our voices be heard now.

We are facing the same sex marriage issue AGAIN. Civil Unions was not what the LGBT Movement/Constituents wanted in the first place. I was here in 2009 when LGBT began the process of demanding their rights. I listened while most LGBT supporter insisted that they had no interest in marriage. One after the other asserted repeatedly that all they wanted was EQUAL RIGHTS for their partners. All they wanted was for their partnerships to be sanctioned. 2010 the same issue was re-addressed. LGBT was granted their request with the assistance of Governor Abercrombie. That should have been the end of this matter for you as Legislatures and us as tax paying constituents. They had apparently won what they had requested. Even though the voice of the people was still one of opposition, LGBT had their victory.

I support getting along with mutual respect for our neighbor. I support respect of individuals. . I believe that even those who oppose the lifestyle of homosexuality have been tolerant of individuals choice to co- habitat with their choice of a partner without jeopardizing future securities. Under the guise of civil rights this issue has been shrouded to pull on the heart string of the ignorant, the uniformed ,the indifferent and those who simply believe we should just all get along.
It has been obvious from the beginning that there is very limited respect for the Christian perspective, in this matter. If we are not going to allow our boundaries to be influenced by a spiritual source, may I appeal to your conscience of wisdom and discretion?

For our elected officials to ignore the voice of the people they are supposed to represent is reprehensible!
Wisdom and discretion must kick in at some point in our decision-making or we will find ourselves without boundaries, without restraint in any areas of life and thereby victims of complete chaos. For soon, more reckless behaviors, more ratings for equality because of the confusion of what is a 'right' or what is 'civil.' Such schools of thought and mind sets such as this proposed legislation is unfathomable in a rational mind.

I strongly oppose this legislation as well as the proposed special session to promote passage of this bill. I pray that each of you will take note of the progression that has taken place and that will take place if you allow passage. Without boundaries, who will be next, bi-sexuals, pedophilia, beastiality? Who else will scream for their right to express themselves in the face of this state because they assert that they were "born that way."

1998-2013 have been a clear picture to me of a masterfully orchestrated agenda. This process that was intended to be civil and a fair exchange of reasonable individuals, we have been strategically and intentionally lied to, manipulated and seduced into disrespecting an institution that has always been respected and honored as a bedrock of our society-Marriage between one man and one woman…..Let the people of the society that we all live in decide whether those boundaries should no longer be respected or valued.
Your children, grand-children and mine will grow up in a nation that has no respect for order. You will leave a legacy of re-defining the family structure-Yes, but at the risk of society that has no respect for its elected officials and their willingness to reflect the voice of the people. Let the people decide and regain the trust and confidence of the people you have been elected to serve.

Because of Grace
Evangelist Marcia R.P. Harris
(808)676-9712

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/13
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same sex marriage. I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process and does not give we, the people, sufficient input into the process.

I am particularly concerned that the religious exemption clauses are so sparse. Priest, pastors and churches are exempted under only very limited circumstances. There is no exemption for religious organizations, charities or fraternal societies, nor are there any exemptions for individuals. I am concerned that my First Amendment rights be protected in the process.

On a personal note, my 7-year old son shared his view on the same sex marriage bill; he stated: "I wish they don't make it pass, because I don't want to marry the same sex." His sharing really gripped my heart and sadden me to think at such a young age is tormented of legalizing "same sex marriage". How many children or let alone maybe even adults will be as bold to share their heart felt views. This bill would be robbing the innocence of our children, grandchildren and all future generations. With such an amendment, again, our freedom of rights under the First Amendment established by our founding forefathers of this great nation will no longer hold it's validity. Has our state government really studied the what the repercussions of passing this bill would have on our judiciary systems with many law suits to follow and the impact of all people now and future generations, and not just with one group? The state of Massachusetts and Canada, who has passed this bill, has had many avoidable lawsuits, with the rights of innocent citizens living under the rights of the First Amendment, were purged and harassed for trying to defend themselves. Please, please, please, do further research so that our freedoms will not be taken away and our children and future generations will live in righteousness as in our state motto: *Ua Mau ke Ea o Ka Aina i ka Pono" - "The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness"* and that it be sustained throughout time.

Finally, since we voted a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples, the only legitimate way to change this is to let we, the people, decide.

Please do not circumvent the democratic process!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Margaret E. W. Kaya

Margaret E. W. Kaya
95-331 Mahapili Ct #168, Mililani, HI 96789
808-781-5700

From:	Mary Los Banos
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:26:00 PM

Dear Clayton Hee, Honorable Chairman and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am Mary Los Banos, the founder and president of The Children's House in Pearl City. The Children's House has been caring for the children of Hawaii for forty eight years. We accept all children that apply without testing the child or evaluating the parental background as long as space is available. Our entrance level is preschool and are children may remain with us and graduate at the sixth grade level. We have children from a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds, some lower income families receiving scholarships from numerous community sources.

I am deeply opposed to SBL (same sex marriage) for the emotional confusion it would create in our children. I have firsthand experience. Some years ago two women, one being the birth mother of a child attending our preschool, came to my office, for at that time I was the principal. They wanted to discuss our teaching on families in their child's classroom. They stated, "We have told our son that he never had a father and we want the school to tell him the same."

I respectfully stated, "It is a natural law that each of us has biological parents, one male and one female." They did not argue for they knew their son was receiving loving care. He was a lovely little boy, physically well cared for and appeared happy. We did not adjust any of our teaching about families and as I recall he remained with us for some time. I was very concerned about the confusion, self-identity, security, and the response of his peers especially as he grew older.

I see many problems for children of divorced and single parents and such a law would bring one more area of pain and confusion for our children. The children are our hope for the future, please do not bring future pain and suffering on our children. It would not only impact a child in a same sex marriage arrangement but it would be confusing to all children in relating to their friends and growing into maturity and becoming community leaders.

I beg you for the sake of our children, to vote NO on this same sex marriage bill.

Sincerely,

Mary Los Banos, President

The Children's House

From: rsole68750@aol.com
To: JDLTestimony
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:07:28 AM

Clayton Hee, Char
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Testimony to SB 1 relating to equality

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor;

My name is Mary Sole. I live at 98-2032 Kikala Street in Aiea. I oppose same sex marriage.

This special session circumvents the democratic process. First you & your colleagues will vote on whether same sex marriage will be the law of our land or not. And, secondly a decision of this magnitude should not be made in the time allotted for this bill to become law. It is not pono. It is not right. The democratic process is being ignored. It is being pushed to the side. Shouldn't we let the people decide on this very highly controversial issue, same sex marriage? We are the people, registered voters who have elected our political officials into their offices, such as you, Honorable Chair & members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor.
And, in the same way that we have voted those in office, shouldn't we also decide on such a highly charged issue? This would be pono! This would be right! Let the registered voters, here in Hawaii decide on whether same sex marriage should be here in our island home or not!

However if the special session would go on as planned, then the wording concerning religious exemption under this section, #572-G Religious organizations and facilities; liability exemption under certain circumstances of this bill should be made stronger. As it now written, it does not fully protect Hawaii's clergyman. They should be very well protected for they serve a vital part in our community.

LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!!!

LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!!!

LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE!!!

Mahalo for reading my testimony.

Respectfully,
Mary Sole
10.26.13

Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Mary Waialeale
My address is 500 University Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96826

I am a registered voter.

Same sex marriage should not be passed in a special session because:

1) A 5 day session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time.
2) No amendments can be made to legislation. As a result, true democracy is made mockery of.
3) Hawaii is the only state rushing into special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision. If the need was truly dire, then why haven't the other 34 states that do not permit ssm done so?
4) A "yes" vote during the special session is a "no" vote to democracy because the voices of the people are not heard.
5) Why not let the people vote? In 1998 the people believed they voted on this issue and they should be the ones consulted again.
6) We voted you into office to respect fundamental democratic principles. Let the people vote.

I am against the bill because:

7) Anything less than preserving the traditional definition of marriage creates an imprecise relationship between the state and my marriage. The fact is that words have meaning. The elevation of same-sex marriage to that of traditional marriage, combined with the use of random nomenclature to designate parties in same-sex marriage, absorbs and reduces time-honored roles of husbands and wives into a morass of meaningless linguistic jargon.

8) If marriage is a civil right for all, then what is to stop other types of non-traditional relationships? Why not permit incestuous and polygamous marriages? Why not allow marriages between adults and children? How about nuptials between people and animals? Will the age of tolerance permit Muslim men to take multiple wives while Muslim women are restricted to one husband? These horrific possibilities destroy the nature of marriage as a sacred union between a man and a woman.

On a personal note – how many of you have grandchildren? What will you explain to your grandchild when he shares w/ you that he has a friend whose parents are both men and he says they're married, and that you passed this into law, and he asks you how they make babies?

From:	Matilda Ann Harris
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 11:16:24 AM

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
I say NO to same sex marriage! And I believe it should be up to the people (voters) not the Government!
Didn't we vote on this already? Stop being bullies trying to force us to accept something that will destroy our state!
God's way, the right way, the only way!

Matilda Harris
Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself also in the Lord,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Mernette Cardejon
45 Hialoa St.
Honolulu, HI 96817

October 24, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30am
I will not be present to deliver my testimony

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Mernette Cardejon and I am opposed to S. B. 1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. I am opposed to this bill for two reasons.

First, the special legislative session will not allow adequate time for discussion and not provide an opportunity for an amendment. Re-defining marriage will not just affect the federal tax status but it will affect the basic unit of society, the family. This re-organization of the family will have long lasting effects that deserve thorough research and thoughtful discussion. The Super Ferry did not receive the proper research and discussion and caused a huge failure and expense to the state. The people of Hawaii deserve to have the time for research and consideration on an issue that would affect them.

Second, and simply put there is no need for this law. Civil Unions became law in the state of Hawaii on January 1, 2012. Civil Unions provide Family Rights, Medical and Death related rights, as well as state tax rights. This venue already provides rights for any couple regardless of sexual orientation if they choose to enter into a Civil Union. Civil Unions provide legal rights without infringing on any first amendment rights of others to the free exercise of religion. There is simply no need to re-create the "wheel".

In closing, I oppose S.B.1 because the special session does not provide adequate time to address the issue and Civil Unions already provide couples legal rights.

Thank you,
Mernette Cardejon

From: Michael McGuire
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:01:33 PM

Clayton Hee, Chair
10/26/13

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am a registered voter and I'm opposed to the special session and the bill to legalize same-sex marriage.

The tactics by this government to keep the bill out of regular session, restrict amendments, and to limit public testimony is evidence that the government is not interested in the will of the people. This Special session amounts to a state imposed redefinition of marriage that lacks a clear substantive state interest. It amounts to an imposed a "new morality" on the people of Hawaii while threatening the First Amendment rights of tens of thousands.

Whatever your personal beliefs are on this matter, I urge you to allow the people to decide this issue.

Respectfully,

Michael B. McGuire

91-332 Hoalauna Place

Ewa Beach, HI

808 387-7787

To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Strong Opposition of Bill SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:02:15 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Michelle H Kealohanui
Waimanalo, HI 96795

October 27, 2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in your Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.

According to an article on page A-13 of the September 20 edition of the Wall Street Journal, same-sex marriage legislation has had a devastating impact on citizens who decline to serve same-sex ceremonies due to religious conflicts. For example:

- A florist in Richland, Washington, was sued by the State Attorney General and the American Civil Liberties Union.
- A Christian couple that owns a bakery in Gresham, Oregon closed their shop because the State launched an investigation into their religious objections.
- The New Mexico Supreme Court upheld a $6,637 fine against Elane Photography, stating that being “compelled by law to compromise the very religious beliefs that inspire their lives” was “the price of citizenship."
- Many County recorders, magistrates, judges, town clerks, and justices of the peace in Iowa, Massachusetts, and New York have resigned because they were told that refusing to perform services for same-sex couples will result in criminal prosecutions for misdemeanors or other sanctions.

This legislation will have little effect on the civil rights of the estimated 5% of Hawaii's residents who identify themselves as gay or lesbian, because they can travel to any one of the fourteen states or the District of Columbia, which have adopted same-sex marriage legislation, to get married. However, it will have a catastrophic effect on the First Amendment rights of the 95% of Hawaii's residents who identify themselves as religious.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE IN OPPOSITION** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,

Aaron Moke Stephens
Keaau, HI 96749

From:	moses kealamakia
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	Testimony For Marriage Bill
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 5:51:46 AM

Hello,
My name is Moses Kealamakia Jr. I am a husband, and father. I am also of part Hawaiian ancestry, which means I am related by blood to a lot of kamaaina people here in the state.

My testimony comes in the form of questions.

Questions for our politicians

Didn't the majority of Hawaii vote to say that the definition of marriage is between a man and a woman? What will our state legislature say to the nearly 70% people who opposed same sex marriage in 1998?

Did any of our current lawmakers vote at that time to agree that marriage was between a male and female? If so, why are you changing?

Have you thought about the long-term consequences?

What is to be said about families in the future?

Are we choosing erotic liberty over religious, moral liberty?

Are we choosing to sacrifice our sacred religious liberty so that our state may have more income generated by marriage fees, and all that is associated with that?

Are we choosing to throw away the natural family, natural marriage, integrity of sexuality within marriage alone, and hope for human flourishing?

Why is this bill being rushed?

Doesn't every child deserve to be raised by a good father and mother? If so, why break down the traditional family?

Are our elected politicians following the will of their constituents?

I close with two phrases.
1. It was the thinker Descartes who coined the phrase, "Cogito Ergo Sum" , which

translates to - I think therefore I am. He taught that we cannot trust the things that come to us through our senses. Instead, we must use rational thinking to sort things out.

I ask, have you thought out the consequences? Have you seen the data about what happened to Massachusetts because they allowed same sex marriage? Can you live with that?

2. The last comes from the Holy Scriptures in the Book of Isaiah chapter 5. I am paraphrasing when I say, " Woe unto them that call good bad, and bad, good, who put darkness for light, and light for darkness, who put sweet for bitter, and bitter for sweet."

Can you live with that?

From: Nancy Vidaña
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Testimony SB1 - 10/18/13, 10:30 a.m - Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 11:36:36 AM

I am writing to the Committee on Judiciary and Labor, regarding the Notice of Hearing scheduled for Monday, 10/28/13 at 10:30 a.m., regarding SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS.

My testimony is to speak against this measure passing. I believe that the long-standing history and culture of marriage being designated specifically and only between one man and one woman should not be changed to include same-sex couples. I believe same-sex marriage would be a major change to an institution that exists in many cultures for good reason, and I believe that this change would be harmful to our state and community as a whole, and to children of future generations causing confusion and upheaval. I also believe, that if this issue of consequence was brought to a vote to the people of Hawaii presently, that same-sex marriage would not be passed by the majority of voters. I disagree with the special session which has been pushed forward by our Governor, without allowing the people of Hawaii to vote on the issue.

Nancy Vidana
Big Island of Hawaii

From: Naomi Takai
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:44:21 PM

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25 October 2013

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
RE: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Thank you for allowing my testimony against SB1 be heard.

My name is Naomi Takai, District 35 Precinct 04.

My initial concern is why this special session was called by the Governor. Isn't special sessions called for the reason of emergencies? And why did he use his authority to unilaterally call for this special session?

If the need for a special session is an **emergency** (a life or death situation) as a result of the Supreme Court's decision on the Defense of Marriage Act, why haven't the other 30+ states that do not allow same sex marriage follow suit?

I humbly ask for the legislative body to have the Governor rescind the proclamation ordering a special session and bring it to the people of Hawaii to have the privilege of voicing their choice at the polls. The people of Hawaii voted you into office holding our trust and faith to uphold the democratic process. Let's do it the right way. Bring it to a vote to the people and may it rest in peace.

Naomi Takai
94-938 Lumihoahu Street
Waipahu, HI 96797

From: Nathan Cunningham
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Marriage Equity Bill
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 6:16:31 PM

Aloha!

I am extremely opposed to the marriage equity bill. I fear that redefining marriage will bring dangers and problems to the state of Hawaii more than we could comprehend. With that being said, I understand that popular public opinion is to pass this law, so I understand your pressure of wanting this passed. However, I would feel it a complete injustice to my liberty as a person to not include some more provisions into the law. There NEEDS to be provisions that a religious person who, out of his or her own personal convictions, does not want to participate in same sex marriage (photographers, venues), should not have to participate. They should not fear being sued for practicing their own personal religious beliefs. I understand that the law protects clergy from performing the ceremony, but there is SO MUCH MORE that needs to be protected and I would encourage all the representatives to include more provisions into the law. There needs to be more protection for people who do not feel that this is right. If same-sex couples want to be married, fine. But do not make me participate in any way shape or form, or instill in me fear of being sued. I trust that you will make the appropriate changes.

Mahalo,

Nathan Cunningham

From: John Henry
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Strong OPPOSITION AGAINST SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:43:09 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong OPPOSITION AGAINST SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in Strong OPPOSITION AGAINST SB1

This bill was erode the basic foundation of families and cause moral decay among our Ohana. History will teach of the Nations that fell due to the lack of Morals. This is not a right, but a changing of the laws of Nature.

John Henry
59A Kanoa St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

From: Carol Stenger
To: Rep. Mele Carroll
Subject: Against SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:40:15 AM

To All Parties involved,
I wish to inform you that I and my family are AGAINST the proposed same-sex marriage Bill. The repercussions will disintegrate our society. You wouldn't even exist if a man and woman did not come together in love.
Thank you for all the other work you do for the betterment of the larger picture of our society.
Sincerely,
Carol

From: akemichan78@aol.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: I am AGAINST SB#1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:32:25 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Kristin. I was born and raised in Hawaii, and I am a registered voter in the state of Hawaii. I am a Christian, a wife and a mother. I graduated from high school and college here in Hawaii. I am disheartened that our "leader" has chosen to blindly jump on the bandwagon of trying to legalize same-sex marriage here in Hawaii...just because all the other states are doing it and it "seems" like the right thing to do.

I submit this testimony to you, that I am AGAINST same sex marriage being legalized in a short 5 day special session. Just because our governor "feels" right about this issue, does not mean that the people of Hawaii feel likewise. Let the people's voices be heard.

The way this bill was written, while with good intent to "protect" clergy from performing a marraige ceremony, the religious freedom of our churches are still being violated. I don't like how this bill is worded. All churches, and church buildings should be exempt from not only performing a same sex ceremony, but holding a reception etc PERIOD. There should be no clause or stipulation as to whether the building is "only for member use" etc. It needs to be CLEARLY stated that any church and church building can DENY access to its building to same sex couples. The state does NOT have the right to open doors of conflict in this matter. Let the churches, and church buildings be 100% exempt from anything to do with same sex marriages free and clear...no stipulation, no clauses that we have to meet all 3 criteria etc. Churches don't want same sex marriage, so don't make us meet criteria in order to deny it.

I also don't agree that personal and family businesses should be able to be sued if the turn down a same-sex couple from their business. If a person believes that same sex marriage is wrong, and they want to turn away business, they should have that right. Just as restaurants reserve the right to deny service to anyone---private business should have that same right, no questions asked. It's not right for government to force businesses to go against their personal beliefs and force them to serve same sex couples in fear of being sued. All businesses should have the RIGHT to REFUSE business to anyone they feel they canot work with. Give them that right to choose who they want to serve, and not go against their moral belief.

On top of all this, no one and I mean no one has addressed how this bill will affect public education. Everyone pushes that question on to somebody else. As a mother, I should know BEFORE HAND how this bill will affect public education. This is not a bill we pass just because "all the other states are doing it" and then find out afterwards what the repercussions are. These issues needs to be adressed BEFORE the bill is passed so that every parent knows exactly how this bill will affect public education. Can teachers cross dress to work? Can transgender kids use the bathroom of their choice? Will there be books allowed that portray 2 fathers or 2 mothers as "normal"? What will be taught? Will parents who don't believe in same sex marriage have the RIGHT to have their child removed from class when these things are taught? Remember, it's MY job to teach my children values and morals, NOT YOURS. The DOE systems can barely get the children of Hawaii to pass their standardized tests, so don't go wasting time teaching about same sex marriage--focus on the curriculum standards not which VALUES and MORALS you feel like teaching my children. That's what church is for. But realistically speaking, how will this bill affect education? LET US KNOW NOW...NOT LATER. We want answers now BEFORE any bill is randomly passed because "all the other states are doing it" or because "it feels like the right thing to do".

By passing this bill, you are infringing on religious freedom. Leave all churches exempt from anything to

do with same sex marriage PERIOD. Address our concerns regarding public education NOW. Don't pass this bill in a hasty, irresponsible 5 day special session. Spell everything out (the expectations and consequences of this bill passing) for the churches, for the education system, for the public in black and white, then let us study this issue and let the people decide. Present this to us with clear understanding of the pros and cons of this bill passing and then put it to a vote.

Stop lying by saying nothing will change, because by changing the definition of marriage, everything will be changing. If nothing will change by passing this bill, then don't pass it. You know very well that things will change by passing this bill. Religious freedom will be stepped on, public education will change--by teaching my children "the new society's morals"--or lack of it, as I see it.

By passing this bill in a hasty and short 5 day special session is selfish of you. Present the facts cleraly, and let us decide how we want the future of Hawaii to be. Don't let "power" get to your head. Give us, the voters of Hawaii, the right to decide the future.

Thank you,
Kristin

From: Bobbie
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Oppose SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:09:55 PM

Please accept this testimonial regarding that we oppose this bill. We choose to allow the people to vote.
Respectfully submitted, Eduardo Luna and Barbara Luna
Sent from my iPhone

From: Jolene Cardenas
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: My testimony against Senate Bill 1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:08:52 PM

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dear Committee on Judiciary and Labor members,

It is my personal belief that the legalization of same-sex marriage will have destructive consequences not only for us Hawaii residents living today, but especially for the next generations to come. By forcing this same-sex marriage legalization bill (SB1 at

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/splsession2013b/SB1_.pdf

down my throat and those of others who have already clearly opposed it earlier, I believe that our right to freedom of speech is being openly and completely violated and that our right to define what constitutes marriage is being twisted out of context in order to fit your personal agendas and beliefs. This, to me, is a direct slap in the face that has the potential to create an environment of distrust towards those like you folks who are supposed to represent our values and see to it that they are reflected in the laws governing the state, including those covering the definition of marriage.

I have a few questions I want all of you to consider when you contemplate the option of forcibly passing this same-sex marriage legalization bill:

1) Since God had originally intended marriage to be between a man and a woman (according to Genesis chapter 1) and since a child can be conceived only when sperm fertilizes eggs in a womb and form a baby, how can two men or two women conceive and bring a child in to this world? How would this “couple" be able to raise him or her up in an environment that has already been defined by heterosexual marriage values?

2) I believe that this bill is not about offering the same financial benefits to both gay and heterosexual-married couples as it is about pushing the values of the gay community down our throats. The last bill I and fellow opponents had opposed had the words “civil union” in it, not “gay marriage” as it seems to be this time around. Since the Bible defines marriage as being between one man and one woman and treats the union as one flesh once they are joined together in matrimony, why has the wording of this bill been changed in order to stealthily but forcefully push same-sex couples’ agendas down our throats? Would any of you, in your right mind, marry a loved one who is interested in marrying someone else of the same gender should you yourselves happen to also be opponents of this bill?

3) How do you suppose a child who comes from a same-sex union would have to explain to his or her peers who their Mommy and Daddy is? And when he or she gets laughed at by heterosexual-oriented peers or snubbed by equally heterosexual-oriented teachers, how much verbal abuse do you suppose this child would be able to take before he or she snaps and then possibly gets driven to lash out at them in violent

anger? When you consider the outbreak of violence that had recently occurred in public schools in the Mainland and the motives many of those young perpetrators had behind their shootings and fights, has it ever occurred to you that by legalizing this same-sex marriage bill, such kids from these unnatural homes could easily use this as grounds for attack during an otherwise typical schoolday right here in Hawaii?

I urge all of you to please don’t allow this same sex marriage legalization bill to become a law. Remember: The passing of this bill and the consequences it brings will live with you and the next generation in your own families—and those of millions of others--for the rest of your lives. The power you folks exercise in passing or opposing this bill will affect everyone in the entire state who are for the traditional and Biblical definition of marriage. Take a stand for what’s right and vote according to your folks' God-given conscience, which I truly believe knows what’s good and what’s evil.

Sincerely,
Jolene

From: Rob and Suzi Daley
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Proposed bill on same sex marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:01:47 PM

It is my understanding that 34 states do not approve of this arrangement and none of them are rushing to push the agenda down the throats of their citizens. The governor does not have the legal right to write bills, that is for the legislative branch. There are states close by if couples with to marry (specifically California and Washington). The supreme court has stated that marriage is NOT a right and should not be considered so. Do not pass this bill without the people of Hawaii having a choice and an opportunity to vote on something such as this that affects so many. Stop bill SB1.

From: Artwear Creations
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: STRONG OPPOSITION TO BILL SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:59:31 PM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Pablo Penaloza
Kailua Kona, Hawaii Island, Hawaii, 96740

From:	Eunice Summers
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	Against passing Same-sex marriage as a law
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 7:54:14 PM

Aloha,

I am writing this email to submit my testimony against same-sex marriage.

Passing same-sex marriage as a law will not only ruin what our forefathers stood for (believing in biblical teachings) but also brainwash our keiki. We cannot let a small group of people who are self-focused on individualism who want to live a life style they see fit while completely disregard what traditional marriage and family is. These people use "equal rights" as a way to get what they want - tax and medical benefits - while not willing to respect and follow traditional marriage.

This issue has nothing to do with equal rights. Let's all face it, not everything has equal rights. I am a woman and therefore my salary is automatically lower than men who work in the same professional field. Do I sue my employer because I do not receive the equal rights I deserve? No, and nor do I think this has anything to do with "equal rights" because this is a known trend - women's pay tends to be lower than men's when comparing same professions.

All men and women are created equal, there is no denial about it. However, we cannot let a small group of people who disregard morality to uproot the most sacred 'a man and a woman' marriage.

Passing this as a law will bring further confusion to our younger generations. Once this law is passed, school curriculum will be altered to include same-sex material and our keiki will be taught that same-sex dating and marriage is okay. Won't this be a form of brainwashing to our keiki when our keiki may not be gays or lesbians? Can we all honestly think traditional marriage is a thing of a past?

Passing same-sex marriage as a law will further persecute churches who believe in and teach authentic biblical teachings because churches can be sued by same-sex couples who don't get their way of wanting to marry in a church that stands on its ground believing marriage is between a man and woman. Even though many say churches will be exempt from this law, there is no guarantee that same-sex couples won't attempt to get their way by persecuting churches.

Please do what is right for the majority of the people in Hawaii who treasure and value the sacred marriage of a man and a woman. Please do not let a small group of people ruin the rest of the folks in Hawaii. This issue has nothing to do with "equal rights". This is a deceit from a small group of people who want to chisel away morality and mess up our younger generations. This small group of people don't care about the consequences they may create because they focus nothing but themselves.

Sincerely,
Eunice Summers

From: Alissa
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Special Session
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:04:06 PM

Alissa Altmann
PO Box 15079
Honolulu, HI 96830

aliholdmann@gmail.com

Committee on Judicial and Labor SB 1 - October 28, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

Subject: Special Session on Same-Gender Marriage

Dear Representatives:

Thank you for your commitment to serve and represent the people of Hawaii. I truly appreciate that you have committed yourself to such an important calling in life. As Representatives for the people, I ask you to consider and make known among your peers my position on a very important issue. I urge you to vote "no" to legalizing same-gender marriage during the special legislative session that has been called by Governor Abercrombie on October 28, 2013.

My primary concern is the inherent risk that the law would have on my First Amendment rights, to express my freedom of religion, as well as the impact that it would likely have on my church community and other religious organizations. The bill currently features language intended to provide religious exemptions to protect churches from being forced to perform same-gender marriages that are in direct conflict with their beliefs. However, the religious exemptions will not protect all churches in Hawaii. Further, if forced, it can lead to lengthy and costly lawsuits that could lead some churches to eventually close down due to financial costs. This would end important community programs that help feed the hungry and provide a wide range of support to Hawaii residents in need.

Personally, I also stand to lose the right to express my religious views on traditional marriage between one man and one woman, whether in the workplace or in public, just as others are able to express their differing views.

I believe that this decision is one that should be made by the people of the State of Hawaii, as was done in 1998 when it was voted on as a constitutional amendment.
I strongly feel that this special session of the legislature does not provide an adequate opportunity for people to voice their opinions.

However, if the people of Hawaii will not be given the opportunity to vote on this issue, I ask you to appeal to your fellow lawmakers to take the time necessary to learn more and to also

properly revise this bill in order to ensure that no one will lose their existing right to express their religious beliefs as originally granted to all Americans, this also includes protection of families rights with regard to future ramifications within our education systems pertaining to same sex education. There are too many homes across our islands that are wrought with issues, many, I truly believe stem from broken homes. We need to stand on the foundation of "marriage," building our homes, not reconstructing the walls. The people of Hawaii have given special rights to the LGBT community within the civil union law. Please do not forsake the people of the islands with quick decisions, five days of deliberations is not enough time spent on such an important topic! We all need more time to learn more, to make better decisions for ALL groups concerned with this discussion.

I trust that you will ensure that these concerns are heard during the special session.

Thank you so much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Yours truly,
Alissa Altmann

From: Linda Akinaka
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Same Sex Marriage Legislation
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:36:57 PM

Aloha,

I am requesting that you vote against legalizing same sex marriage here in Hawaii. I believe that traditional marriage is the basis for the foundation of the family, society and our nation. All efforts should be made to preserve and encourage the traditional family and prevent further undermining of marriage and family in our society. Tax exemptions and social security benefits have been endorsed to facilitate those who wish to raise a family and now claims are being made that any type of relationship is entitled to these benefits. If you wish to entitle all types of relationships to these benefits, do it without changing the definition and purpose of marriage.

A traditional family has been the basis for Judeo -Christian society since recorded time. It has been the basis for our nation as well. There are biological, physiological and psychological differences between a man and a woman. The success of our society is dependent upon children being raised in a nurturing family with both a father and a mother whose gender differences compliment each other and who are able to procreate.

Society's problems have increased as families are challenged with increasing sexual permissiveness, single parent families, and mothers working outside of the home. By calling a same sex union "marriage" through legislation, further damage will be done as we are forced to submit to regulations that are against our conscience. The State then becomes an enforcer and a promoter of same sex marriage.

As a nation and state we have tried to encourage families by providing benefits to help families as they raise children and perpetuate our society. Same sex partners are unable to have children themselves so it seems that equality in this area is not possible.

We voted as a State to define marriage as between a man and a woman. I think it is not right that a few legislators can change that vote.

I thank you for your consideration and vote against the Same Sex Marriage bill.

Linda Akinaka

4101 Aliikoa Place

Haiku, HI 96708

808-572-2448

From: Barbara Ferraro
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY mailed-by: gmail.com
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:29:25 PM

Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees:

Concerned Women for America of Hawaii does not support S.B. NO. 1 for the following reasons:

1. Hawaii already has a Civil Union Law which currently grants rights to same-sex couples, not only for Hawaii benefits, but for federal benefits, which is not being pointed out in all the news items.

2. The U. S. Supreme Court did not rule that DOMA was unconstitutional, which is what is being incorrectly stated by many here in Hawaii. Therefore, those in a same-sex union in Hawaii would still be allowed to receive federal benefits without requiring them to have their union solemnized.

3. Passing this legislation would be a detriment and a liability for Hawaii, because it would open up doors to allow more intrusion in to our public and private lives as evidenced in those states that have legalized same-sex "marriage," such as California, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maryland, Maine, Delaware, Rhode Island, Minnesota, Iowa, and New York. Those states which have already legalized same-sex "marriage" are showing a host of problems relating to this issue, affecting children for the most part, where they are being taught values that their parents do not accept based upon their religious beliefs.

4. There has not been sufficient time for this bill to be reviewed for its impact as our State Constitution requires. This could have easily waited until our regular session, which will begin in about two months.

5. Same-sex "marriage" will be taught in the schools as an acceptable type of marriage, which comes against the religious beliefs of the majority of Hawaii's residents; it is already being done in the states that have legalized same-sex "marriage."

6. The reason given — that by legalizing same-sex "marriage" Hawaii will be able to generate more income because same-sex couples will be suddenly flocking to Hawaii to get married in such a romantic spot — is not very good justification for passing such legislation as S.B. No. 1.

7. This bill should not be passed simply to cater to only **2%** of the population instead of listening to the other **98%**, especially when an election year is just around the corner.

8. The rush to get this bill through before the end of the year has no real justification. There has not been a reasonable enough answer given by Governor Abercrombie as to why this bill cannot wait until the regular session begins in January. He talks about being able to give same-sex couples tax breaks, when they can receive them easily through a civil union which Hawaii already has, as stated above.

9. When it comes to equality, this legislation should rightfully be brought before the voters of Hawaii, so that they can have an equal opportunity to once again vote on this issue, as they did in 1998, when they thought that vote settled it once and for all.

10. When Governor Abercrombie first called for this Special Session, he said it was just to decide upon this one piece of legislation, because it was important to get it passed before the end of the year. Now there are several other bills that are going to be brought before this Special Session, which will not give enough time for just this one piece of legislation; the Special Session is now expected to last 10 days instead of the original five days.

11. Even before a vote has been taken, Governor Abercrombie is already declaring that he expects this legislation to pass, by putting a date on it as to when he expects it to become law, and he is already preparing the system for a date of November 18, according to news reports.

This testimony is respectfully submitted by

Barbara J Ferraro
Hawaii State Director
Concerned Women for America
PO Box 10732

Hilo, HI 96721-5732
(808)965-9834
http://hawaii.cwfa.org

If you do not wish to receive further messages from me, please reply and just type "Remove."

"SILENCE IN THE FACE OF EVIL IS EVIL ITSELF; GOD WILL NOT HOLD US GUILTLESS. NOT TO SPEAK IS TO SPEAK AND NOT TO ACT IS TO ACT."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The next time you are sending either a donation or your annual membership to CWA National, please consider making it a payment for CWA of Hawaii by sending a check made out to CWA, to P.O. Box 10732, Hilo, HI 96721 or by donating on line at: http://hi.cwfa.org. You will receive an acknowledgement of your payment.

From: jodi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 6:36:29 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of my family in opposition of SB 1. I've read the bill and feel so dishearted as to how a minority of voices can out weigh the majority. The vote in 1998 was loud and clear by the people of Hawaii and yet you are still amending and crossing out the very foundation of what marriage is about. You and I did not bring marriage into existence, it was ordained by God. You and I supposedly, are to follow His Word. It has never changed over the thousands of years and I'm sure that it will not change just to satisfy a minority of people. God does not change for anyone and neither can you or I change His Word.

Again, my family and I are oppose to SB 1 and we will pray that you make the right decision for the future of Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Pastor Jodi Nahinu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: pmacayan@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:50:51 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/24/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
patricia macayan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I would like the opportunity to voice my decision regarding SSM

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: Patricia Tupou
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Bill SB 1
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 7:11:16 PM

Dear Legislators,

I am against the passing of Bill SB 1. Marriage is a sacred, religious institution between a male and a female. People of the same sex should call their union something else other than marriage. Also the option that allows churches to opt out of marrying same sex couples or renting out their facilities to whoever demands it needs to be strengthened to protect the religious freedom of their members and beliefs, guaranteed under the constitution.

Patricia Tupou 808-293-8681

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: paulabeamer@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:37:57 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Paula Beamer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Keep marriage between one man and one woman only please.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Paula Oishi
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Pls allow the people to vote
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 5:58:55 AM

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives,

May you kindly allow the people of Hawaii to vote on this bill, rather than voting in this special session amongst yourselves?

I voted for traditional marriage and know a lot of people who feel the same way. This is such a sensitive issue and I feel that we should not rush without letting the people vote on this issue.

May I humbly ask to please allow the people to make the decision? I know you will be amazed.

Thank you very much.

Paula Oishi

From:	Paulette Kurakazu
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	For the Senate Hearing SB1 Oct 28 2013
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 7:30:41 PM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Please do not pass this bill.
Same sex marriage is destructive to the society, breaking the foundation of the true family.
SB 1 as written protects rights of gays to marry, but where is the protection of religious rights,
when a church is not exempt from prosecution if it is collecting revenues for the church property?

Submitted by,
Paulette Kurakazu
174 Uhu Street
Hilo, HI 96720

To: JDLTestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:51:42 AM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a small business owner, I strongly oppose the legalization of same sex marriage. This bill will be a detriment to our society and will result in further horrible policies that cascade into our businesses, schools and communities. The people of Hawaii have voted against this in the past and continue to strongly oppose such a measure. Marriage is a covenant with God, not a "right" to be given or taken away by the state.

Peggy Geddis
317 Ainakula Road
Kula, HI 96790
808-876-1795

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marraige because of our heartfelt concern and compassion for the future of our state. I concern over the physical, mental and emotional problems that will beset those who choose the homosexual lifestyle, and I object to what this will do to our community, my children and to my traditional family life. Evidence clearly show that children must be raised in a traditional family environment to thrive and to grow.

In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

Phyllis Young
909 Kahauloa Place
Honolulu, HI 96825
808-395-6694/808-389-6694

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Dear Honorable Chair,

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

The issue of same-sex marriage is a hotly debated subject in our state of Hawaii. Many of us know "good people" who are practicing the gay/lesbian lifestyle. In my opinion, this is the stumbling block for many. They look at the sampling of "good gay couples" and they say that these are good people and should be allowed to be married. Having a limited view stops one from looking further at the facts.

In 2011, Governor Abercrombie passed the Civil Unions Law so that sex couples could apply for a civil union which would give them all the benefits that married couples have. This Civil Union Law in Hawaii went into effect on January 1, 2012. As of May 2013, there have been only 916 couples who took advantage of this right to declare themselves as civil unions. This is not a large number and certainly not worthy of the expense and time of a special session. Governor Abercrombie has used the argument that the special session is necessary so that same-sex people here in Hawaii can be married and be able to receive the Federal benefits. But, what is not being said is that same-sex couples can go to any state that recognizes same-sex marriage, solemnize their marriage there, return to Hawaii—where same-sex marriage does not need to be approved—and still receive their Federal benefits.

So, if there were under 1,000 couples in Hawaii who took advantage of applying to be recognized as civil unions, why is there a special session going on now—attempting to rush each of you into making an unprecedented decision giving gays the right to marry? Is this really about equity of marriage or is this a guise to bring about the wishes of a small but vociferous minority of people—the impetus being propelled from those outside of Hawaii?

The facts show that the objective of LGBT, as we have witnessed from states such as Massachusetts and even in Toronto, Canada, is not to marry but to change family, church and society itself.

Please do acknowledge the fact that there is a large population of gays and lesbians who are extremely militant. This group of LGBT are at war with those who claim that marriage is only between a man and a woman. Know that this goal of legalizing same-sex marriage is but a stepping

stone to further their plan. They are at war with the churches and the faithful church-going people who still stand on the Word of God and its authority. This militant LGBT group is bright and they have charted their course well. They have already planted their seeds in our schools. They desire to capture the children of today and of future generations to shape their minds, attitudes and beliefs beginning at the early age of Kindergarten, increasing their dogma as children advance in age. Their very words in the "Little Black Book" published in Massachusetts say that this is a wonderful time to be gay because anything goes and there is no limit to the fun one can have with gay sex. They teach that the bible is irrelevant in this age. We have been told that in Canada teacher and students of faith are to park their faith at the school door.

Finally, in spite of what the Governor and the attorney general may tell you, churches are not protected by this bill. As long as there is a public accommodation clause in it, NO ONE is exempt. Please show me a church that does not open its doors to non-parishioners. Count the many churches that open its doors to the youth to use their school gymns, allow AA groups to gather for their very important weekly meetings. How many churches on this island participate in the Family Promise program that houses and feeds families giving them a hand up? This bill would also target Catholic Charities and other religious groups as well.

I urge you not to rush this extremely important issue at this special session. Vote "no" and let the people decide!

From: Qi Hui Gao
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:28:53 PM

For the Senate Hearing: Hearing on 10/28/13 at 10:30am
Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMOY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members on the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to express that I am opposed to the SB 1 bill to legalize same-sex marriage. Please vote against this bill and let the people decide.

Same-sex marriage is not about tolerance. Same-sex homes are already tolerated in society. Same-sex marriage is about putting the legal stamp of approval on homosexuality and forcing its acceptance on citizens and our social, political, and commercial institution. It forces acceptance for businesses and individuals to recognize same-sex couples in all their benefits and activities.

Again, I ask you to vote against the SB 1 bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Qi Hui Gao

From: raina
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Same Sex Marriage
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:40:25 PM

I am very opposing to Same Sex Gender marriage. I believe marriage is very sacred and is ordained of God. Marriage between a man and woman is essential to the family unit and to all mankind. Our society would be in chaos and confusion and ripen for destruction by a the hand of our Lord All Mighty. We would be living as in Sodom and Gomorra.

I believe in equal rights, however equal right has it's place. Church and Religion is our right to worship whom we believe to worship and our laws are of a higher power from our Heavenly Father and his son Jesus Christ. Same sexy marriage is an abomination to The Lord. It is by the grace of God that our country remains free and protected, and it is by this hand that we can be destroyed because of immoral and unrighteousness living. Those of us who are God fearing people know this. Those of you who are not see good for evil and evil for good. I stand firm that this abdominal law for same same gender marriage be done away with. My prayers are with you who has the power to make the right decision according to the laws of Heaven and the laws of the land. I believe that the Constitution of the United States was written by men inspired of God. It was written for us to live righteously in this promised land and same gender marriage is wrong.

Mahalo,

Raina K Dudoit

PO Box 39, HOOLEHUA, Hi, 96729
Iluvmkai@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

Ramona Asato
E-MAIL: ramona0599@gmail.com

Fax cover sheet

DATE: 10/25/2013

TO: ___ Clayton Hee, Karl Rhoads, Sylvia Luke

COMPANY/DEPT: ____ C.H.-CHAIR, K.R. - CHAIR, S.L. - CHAIR

FROM: _ Ramona Asato

NO of pages (Including cover sheet): 1

COMMENTS: "Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality" Please do not pass this bill, Hawaii voted several years ago and killed a similar bill. We the people did vote gay and non gay. Why did the people we elect into office try to revise and pass a similar bill. Sometimes in life you will have to take a stance, I pray that you will stand for traditional marriage, it is not a union, it is two people becoming one. For the sake of Hawaii's future and the future of our keiki, this bill will be the start of a moral and ethic decline here in beautiful Hawaii Nei. I beg of you for my children and my childrens children do not pass this bill. May God be with you. In the name of Jesus, pray on it and do what is right in Gods eyes, once you go forward it will be hard to reverse your actions. Ask for Godly wisdom in everything that you do. Please.

Aloha
Ramona Asato

From: Ann Allred
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Against the passage of SB1 10/28/13 10:30 am - Written Testimony Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 1:32:03 PM

Aloha.
You, our elected representatives, have an obligation to hear the voice of the people and to legislate in our behalf.

Our family joins with many, many families here in Hawaii who believe in the sanctity of the family and of the bond of marriage between a man and a woman. Strong families are the foundation of our society. Our island tradition supports strong families and religious values.

Our family also holds dear the freedom to practice our religion. While we do not condemn others for not living our values, we also feel that being able to believe and live our values should not be limited by others. The proposed legislation threatens these freedoms.

We ask that you please NOT PASS this bill before you. Let the people speak their mind to assure you that, as in 1998, we still believe marriage means the union of one man and one woman.

Thank you for your attention.

Randal and Ann Allred and Family
55-491 Iosepa Street
Laie HI 96762

From: Raymond Glory,Jr
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly; Sen. Russell Ruderman; Rep. Faye Hanohano; Rep. Richard Onishi; Rep. Clifton K. Tsuji; Rep. Mark Nakashima; Rep. Nicole Lowen; Rep. Cindy Evans; Rep. Denny Coffman; Sen. Josh Green; Sen. Gilbert Kahele; Sen. Malama Solomon
Subject: Not in Favor: SB1
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:47:28 AM

My name is Raymond Glory, Jr, and I am a life long resident of Hawai'i island. I was born in Kohala, and have lived in Volcano Village, for the past 24 years. I am against SB1 for the following reasons:

1. The convening of this special session for an issue that has such far reaching ramifications should have the full two thirds support of both the house and the senate. The fact that it does not and that the governor chooses to convene the special session anyway, is of great concern to me.
2. An issue of this magnitude should include as much input from the citizens as possible. This special session does not do that, as it is limited to only 5 or 6 days. To compound matters, if I want to testify in person, I have to fly to Honolulu to do it as there are no accommodations for in-person, neighbor island testifiers. This is discriminatory and abusive to neighbor island citizens.
3. It should be the goal of the legislature to write and pass into law the best bill possible to best serve all of the citizens of the state. The fact that the bill before the legislature cannot be amended is baffling, and leaves me with the impression that the input from the citizens, the house representatives, the senators ~ for that matter, everybody except the drafters of the bill ~ is not relevant or welcome. The bill is a "take it or leave it" document, and doesn't look at all like democracy in the United States of America.

Please vote against the bill.

Sincerely,
Raymond Glory, Jr.
P.O. Box 995
Volcano, HI 96785
(808) 967-8444

Submission from Rebecca Wolfersberger for SB1

We OPPOSE SB 1 Hawaii Marriage Equality Act for the following reasons:

1. This debate seems to be focusing on the rights of consenting adults; but the rights of children are being ignored. Children have a right to be raised by their biological parents whose commitment to each other is attested to by the covenant of marriage. While recognising that this is an ideal, and that in practice mothers and fathers can be separated by death, by divorce or by lack of commitment, the fact remains that research supports the finding that children raised by both their biological parents who remain committed to each other do better on all measures of well-being. There will always be notable exceptions, <u>but we should not be deconstructing the ideal of an institution which appears to be contributing to the general well-being of children.</u>
2. Parents need to establish their relationship as a role model for their children. If the definition of marriage is altered to include same gender couples it sends mixed messages to children and contributes to gender confusion. The following is excerpted from an article entitled *Caring for Your School Age Child: Ages 5-12(Copyright* © 2004 American Academy of Pediatrics updated 30/12/2011.

   "The gender-role behavior of children seems to be strongly influenced by their identification with the males and females in their lives. All children pick up characteristics from the men and women around them, incorporating these traits into their own personalities and value systems. They are also influenced by TV and sports heroes and adults in all other activities in their lives. Over time, the combined effect of these many influences may determine many of their masculine and feminine qualities. Perhaps more than any other factor, the subtleties of every child's relationship with his or her father and mother—and the attitudes of the parents toward each other and toward the child—will influence his or her gender-related behaviors."
   (Retrieved 15 October, 2012 from http://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/gradeschool/pages/Gender-Identity-and-Gender-Confusion-In-Children.aspx)
3. The media has done a speedy job of changing public opinion on this issue in recent years. Marriage was once a sacred instution that was a clear pillar of society. To so quickly change to a new standard without examining the lasting effects it might have on society, and children in particular, is rash. Marriage as an institution should not be altered on the whim of the media when society as a whole is affected. We look to our politicians to show moral leadership in society, rather than lead the downward charge.
4. The Judeo-Christian tradition sees marriage as being ordained of God between a man and a woman. It also calls on men and women to be chaste before marriage and faithful in marriage. It calls on parents take responsibility for the raising of their children in love and kindness. In its ideal form it is an institution worth defending and deserving of our support. If strong families are the building blocks of a strong country, and a strong society, then nothing will endanger our future

more than the undermining of the family proposed in this Hawaii Marriage Equaliy Act.

5. The United States of America was built on Christian values that are inherent in the Judeo-Christian ethic and even though today it has become a much more secular society, and many of the Christian values have been eroded in the face of an evolving permissiveness, the influence of these values still permeates our culture. The erosion of these values and their positive moderation of human behaviour start with the idea, "I don't agree with this, but we live in a democratic country and I respect your right to think differently from the way I do." Having given way once, we become seduced by the logic of this argument and move to a tolerance which normalises practices which were previously regarded as not normal. Soon we embrace them wholeheartedly and their widespread acceptance means that those who try to remain faithful to the original premise are vilified and treated with less respect than those who lead the downward slide.

   This process can be seen in a range of issues:
   (i) The abandonment of the sanctity of Sunday as the Sabbath day
   (ii) The abandonment of the notion of chastity before marriage and fidelity in marriage
   (iii) The notion of no-fault divorce
   (iv) Increasing violence and promiscuity of lifestyles promoted in the media
   (v) Lowering of the drinking age and proliferation of liquor outlets (including supermarkets)
   (vi) The decriminalisation of prostitution
   (vii) Increasing dishonesty in business, politics and indeed in all aspects of life
   (viii) The tolerance of sexually explicit material in movies and TV (and on the internet)

   The results of this can be seen in:
   (i) The lack of spiritual reflection and refreshing which can accompany a day set aside for that purpose
   (ii) Increasing numbers of children born out of wedlock and raised in single parent homes
   (iii) Increasing incidence of intergenerational welfare dependency related to the above
   (iv) Increasing incidence of violence to children by partners of solo mothers (and failure of solo mothers to protect their children)
   (v) Increasing incidence of divorce with its concomitant negative impact on the lives of children
   (vi) Increasing incidence of promiscuity and incidence of sexually transmitted diseases
   (vii) Increasing incidence of violent crime
   (viii) Increasing participation by disenfranchised and disaffected youth (product of dysfunctional families) in gangs with the accompanying rise in gang related crime
   (ix) Increasing incidence of binge drinking and alcoholism (and drug use) among young people squandering the potential of their future life opportunities

(x) Increasing incidence of theft as a servant, fraud, embezzlement, misrepresentation, political dishonesty

(xi) Increasing incidence of pornography addicition among (particularly) males of all ages. It is interesting that we are permissive with regards to adult pornography but not to child pornography. As with any addiction, one thing leads to another. If we wish to reduce and even eliminate child pornography, we should be as strict on adult pornography.

A stand in favour of protecting the institution of marriage and against the amending of the definition of marriage to allow same sex marriage unfortunately inevitably attracts the ire of the proponents of this legislation. The Judeo-Christian ethic teaches us to strive to live peaceably with one another. We have no desire to denigrate those with same-gender attraction. In summary, we do, however, desire to reject this act because:

Summary:

1. It fails to take account of the rights of children to be part of a family environment which will give them the best chance of success in life.
2. In confuses the clarity of appropriate gender models for children.
3. The media has overinfluenced society into beliefs about same-sex marriage without considering the effects on society as a whole. Politicians need to show moral leadership and consider the potential for long-term negative downstream consequences that could flow from this redefinition.
4. Marriage is an institution worth protecting for the strong value it has on creating strong families, the building-block of our society.
5. Traditional values have positive worth in maintaining much that is good in society.

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

To begin, I would like to thank you for your service to our state and the sacrifices you have made to represent the state of Hawaii and its interests. Please know that I pray for you and your job, and while I take an interest in the politics of the state, your job is to work at it every day and I want thank you for your willingness to do that for the people of Hawaii.

I want to voice my concern for the upcoming bill up for consideration in the legislature. I deeply troubled by the speed at which this bill is being handled, especially with the society changing implications that it represents. Though it may seem that much time has been spent on this bill, the truth is that all the ongoing debate back and forth about it, and the research that is surfacing, it is clear that this is not something that should be rushed and decided on so quickly for you as our leaders and representatives. To do so would jeopardize the trust the people have in the government and thus tear apart the necessary unity needed between both in order to see positive change happen. If this bill is passed, there will be ramifications that will affect generations to come, whether you have read about the other states that have moved in the direction of approving bills like this one. I come to you as a father of 2 sons who are barely starting their education, and with the possibility of education being affected because of this issue in the future, it is crucial that the people of Hawaii get their voice heard. I hope that you as our representatives will recognize all sides of the issue, and make sure that you are making the right decision, what is best for all the people of Hawaii, not just a few.

While I oppose the bill, my main concern is that you have carefully thought through what this will mean for the future of Hawaii. There is a cost to the people of Hawaii that they must be made aware of. We cannot ignore the history of things that have passed and the changes that have occurred because of bills like this in other states. We cannot afford to make mistakes in the decision making process of Hawaii. It is essential that choose carefully and take time to make wise decisions. Decisions like this could cost our state more than we are ready for. I implore you to give the people of Hawaii the time to make the decision and not take it upon yourself to make the decision. You may regret it if you are not certain on both sides of the issue, not just one.

I appreciate your time in hearing my concerns and testimony. I hope this will help to focus your efforts as you consider your next steps. I know that the job you do is not easy, and I offer this word of encouragement to you to see that you find a moment to think through with wisdom and clarity. I hope that this will help you in the days ahead. Good luck with your decision upcoming and again thank you for your service to our state.

Sincerely,
Robert Uyeda

From: r.ventura@hawaii.rr.com
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: I OPPOSE SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:56:10 PM

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

First, I want to thank you for your hard work and your heart to serve the people of Hawaii, trying to help protect our state and make life better for everyone.

I am asking you to vote NO at the special session regarding the proposed Same Sex Marriage Bill (SB1). I am opposed to redefining the meaning of the word “marriage”. The definition of marriage in the United States has always been a legal union between one man and one woman (except for a period where polygamy was practiced by some of those of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints--which has since been outlawed.)

If this bill is passed and becomes law, I am concerned about the effect on the culture, values, and the rich pro family pro life traditions of Hawaii. There have been many instances in other states and countries where same sex marriage has been legalized where this change in law has greatly affected curriculum in schools, and the freedom of parents to speak and teach their children according to their moral beliefs.

Have you researched and analyzed the effects on those states (like Massachusetts) and places (like Canada) that have already made same sex marriage legal? It has been shown that some of the LGBT leaders have specific plans to change school curriculum and to change laws about churches being able to follow their faith in choosing whether or not to perform marriages, etc. based on their belief systems. Individuals and businesses who are not gay or lesbian should have freedom to live out their beliefs also.

I ask you to vote NO on SB1 until we, the people of Hawaii, can see what has happened in other places and decide if this is/will be in the BEST interests of the people of Hawaii. If you vote no on this issue, it will give time for greater research, debate and input from Hawaii’s people. I believe that, regarding this issue, you will best serve the people by letting each one of us have a vote in determining the outcome that we are being asked to live by.

Thank you for reading my testimony and considering my opinion,
Robin S. Ventura, registered voter
3439 Anuwanu Place
Makawao, HI 96768

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/13
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My wife and I arrived in Hawaii in 1998 and after retiring from the military, we chose to stay in Hawaii because we believed there was no better place to raise our eleven children. We loved the culture and spirit of mutual respect, community support for families and we wanted pass along to our children the religious/moral values that were given to us by our parents. But this bill threatens to change everything.

For this reason and the following, I offer this testimony against SB-1:

First, Same Sex Marriage is NOT a civil right. As a boy, I lived in the Washington DC area during the Civil Rights era of the early 1960's. As an undergraduate and graduate student, I studied American history and politics. To include sexual preference in the same category as a civil right is to grossly cheapen sacrifices made for true civil rights.

Second, please do NOT ignore the studies that explain the pain/guilt placed on children raised in same sex environments. The studies are rigorous and comprehensive. And the results are compelling--"marriage" is NOT appropriate for people who live a gay/lesbian life style. In fact, one of my adult daughters who has lived in the lesbian world for the past decade strongly agrees "marriage" is NOT appropriate for people who live a homosexual life style.

Finally, this Special Session does not reflect the desires of the public—we did not ask for it, it expends time/money that we do not have to waste and <u>because this bill will change Hawaii's culture forever, I urge you to let the people decide!</u>

We respectfully request you vote NO.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

(Signature)

ROJELIO HERRERA JR.

94-368 HAKAMOA ST., MILILANI, HI 96789

(808) 284-9874

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Date: Oct. 26, 2013

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We are in opposition to same sex marriage. Please oppose this bill as it is principally against God's created order and His word. Please give us the opportunity to vote on this bill.

Sincerely,

Roland

From: Ronette Taeoalii
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Special Session Same Sex Marriage Bill
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 8:34:56 AM

Thank you for your time. I am opposed to the Same Sex Marriage Bill because I feel the purpose of marriage is to create and raise happy and healthy families. By nature, we create another human being through the union of a man and a woman. More emphasis needs to be placed on the responsibility of our society to engage in healthy relationships that foster the growth and development of happy and healthy families. The decline of our society can be linked directly to the disintegration of the nuclear family.

Please revisit the Same Sex Marriage Bill and allow your constituents to study this legislation. The implications of passing a same sex marriage bill will affect society in many ways yet unforeseen.

I am asking that you allow the people to decide and have the opportunity to cast a vote reflecting our respect for the choices of one another.

Sincerely,

Ronette Taeoalii

From:	Rosemary Yokota
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	Strong Opposition of SB1
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 10:39:47 PM

My name is Rosemary Yokota, I live at 716 Lukepane Ave., Apt. 502, Honolulu, HI 96816, I am writing to tell you that I am oppose to Bill SB1.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be examined as all other bills. I can not see why we are rushing to pass it without seeing where this bill will confuse our families and our children future. Please vote NO to democracy!

Thank you,

Rosemary Yokota

From:	Samuela Langi
To:	JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject:	My first amendment rights
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:28:32 PM

The bill does not address liability by local marriage vendors. If you are a photographer, cake maker, musician entertainer and you disagree to perform at these functions you can legally be sued by the couple to comply or get a fine.
But i believe i have conscience exception and I should be afforded the right to waive such occasions because I find it offensive to my GOD.
Freedom of religion was so important that the founders listed it twice in the Bill of rights.
Same way a doctor has the right not to perform an abortion because it interferes with his or her religious belief i should be afforded the same protections when being forced to do anything else offensive to my beliefs as well. Doctors and nurses are vendors in the medical profession and are paid for their services, i do not see any difference in the services that i provide that disqualify me from this ruling.

Mahalo

Sam Langi Jr

From: Mmoorelvi75@aol.com
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Sam Sex Marriage
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:45:00 PM

Aloha,

I am a citizen, voter, and US Army veteran native to Hawaii. I married my husband 14 1/2 years ago, traditionally, in the sight of God. I oppose same sex marriage. I don't oppose another's beliefs, but the fact that a single legal document, supported by a reverend and witnesses, in the sight of God, puts my husband and I under the sacred status of "Married" could possibly be redefined for the purpose of equal benefits and tax purposes, degrades the sacredness of "Holy Matrimony."

The definition of marriage / same sex marriage should be voted upon by the very people who voted everyone into office, not behind closed doors and rushed into. Expenses for this special session could be used toward education - perhaps air conditioning for Campbell High School. (I'm not bias, I'm a Kailua grad...)

Again, I oppose same sex marriage and I thank you. My prayers are out to everyone in legislature.

Mahalo and Aloha,
Samlynn N Moore, wife, mother of 3, sister of a lesbian, cousin and friend to many, many gays and lesbians, believer of Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior.

From: Sandy Coons
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 3:56:00 PM

I would like to add my voice to the testimony about recognizing same-sex marriage. I am asking the senate and house to vote NO on same sex marriage. I believe that marriage is a holy covenant designed by our God, and designed for a man-woman union, in Him. It is very simple, really. Read your Bible, and learn what our God says about marriage. Then, follow His Word, which is righteous. Thank you!

Secondly, this special session being called to pass a bill recognizing same-sex marriage is not democracy. Let the people decide, in a vote of all the people.
Sincerely, Sandra Coons

To Whom it May Concern, October 26, 2013

I, Jamee Adams, of Hilo, HI, submit below my testimony in opposition to SB1.

I oppose two aspects of this bill, and innumerate them below:

1) I oppose that this bill is being submitted in a special legislative session as opposed to an open vote for the people of Hawaii. I understand that this legislative vote was made possible in 1998, but I still feel that most residents did not understand the rights and choices they were giving up at the time. (People thought that they were voting on an amendment to the Hawaii Constitution to solidify marriage between one man and one woman as the only definition of marriage in the state of Hawaii – not realizing they were giving up their right to vote on this issue to their legislative representatives.) It is taking advantage of the ignorance of many – and it is painful for those like myself who feel they understand the consequences of both the previous and current legislation. I am asking that you as honorable legislators give the vote back to the people of Hawaii. It should not have been presented in such a difficult and confusing way in the first place and to piggy-back on that previous decision does not suddenly make this bill in special session constitutional.

2) I oppose the wording in the bill that suggests that business and religious organizations will be forced to conduct or otherwise sanction same-sex marriages in their buildings. I am very worried that this legislation will lead to lawsuits or forcible action on the part of the minority against the perceived "bigoted" or "religious" – even if they are neither. Regardless of religious choice, Americans still have the personal freedom to control personal property and privately-owned spaces. As a precedent in other states (MA, WA, NM, NY), we are already seeing legal action being brought against those who deny access to their businesses or places of worship. That is not right and I fear that this legislation will allow for this infringement.

Thank you for your service to our community and your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jamee Adams
734 Lahou St.
Hilo, HI 96720

Dear Sir,

First and foremost, I appreciate being a resident in Hawaii for twenty-four years. I thank you for all the hard work and support you've shown for the People in Hawaii. Please spend a couple of minutes to read this and kindly consider my request.

I am a Social Worker at Catholic Charities Hawaii. It's been 24 years since I moved from N. Dakota to Hawaii. The freedom and respect for the People in Hawaii have kept me to stay here as long as I could. Having said that, I would like to be very direct by asking you to consider voting no to the "Same Sex Marriage" bill during the Special Session on Oct 28th, and let the People of Hawaii decide it. Being a devoted Christian that is deeply involved with serving the immigrants and nurturing the next generation of youth, I clearly see the values of keeping traditional marriage and family structure intact for the sake of our present and future generations. Deep down in our hearts, we all know that same sex marriage is against the nature of human beings, that is, we are born to have marriage with opposite sex in order to reproduce off springs and establish families for the society to function.

Once again and simply put, I sincerely ask you to please let the People of Hawaii decide this on our own. This Special Session, unfortunately, does not represent the majority of the People's voice in Hawaii.

Respectfully,
Selina Lau
2033 Nuuanu Avenue, Apt. 17B
Honolulu, HI 96817
808-834-6993

From: Serelina Mwarey
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: Against Same-sex Marriage
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:55:29 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

Aloha! First of all, I want to thank you for all that you do representing the people of Hawaii. We are blessed to be living in this beautiful islands and sharing the aloha with one another. Raising our kids and now grandkids here in Hawaii has been such a great joy. I believe in a family with a father and mother where the children grow up learning where we came from, why we are here, and where we are going. With this being said, I want to show my concern on the Bill #SB1. I am against the Same-sex Marriage. I want the people of Hawaii to voice their opinions and I hope you at the Capitol will let the people of Hawaii vote regarding this bill. I hope you will realize that the best for Hawaii is AGAINST SAME-SEX MARRIAGE. Thank you.

Mahalo,

Serelina Mwarey

From: Shanita Akana
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY.
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:24:25 AM

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

My name is Shanita Akana. I am from Ewa Beach, Hawaii. I am in opposition to SB 1 relating to Equality. A government that seeks to overthrow an 'already decided upon' definition of marriage is unfair, unjust, and inconsiderate of the voice of the people. Gay and lesbian couples already receive benefits through the Civil Unions bill passed in 2011. Career politicians lack compassion, although they offer consideration by allowing me to put forth my testimony, in the end, they vote party lines and this is very disturbing.

Please do not subject the people of Hawaii to the ways of Massachusetts. The repercussions are devastating and the worst ripple effect is re-writing school-aged textbooks in our public schools to include the teachings of a homosexual nature, which is not natural, but man-made. I am a 47 year old wife and mother, tolerant to all human beings, their creed, color, sexual orientation, etc., but will not let this one go as the future of my children and grandchildren are at stake. If you believe in good education for our children, let the lessons of moral principals stand in all classrooms in society, including the textbooks that law students read from.

It is unbelievable that states that passed the SSM bill have to re-write their law textbooks to include language of same sex unions. Let's not go down that path. You cannot infringe upon the personal religious beliefs of others. Our United States Constitution guards against this, well at least that's what I learned from my former educators and in the textbooks written during my high school and college years.

As a strong Catholic Christian, I ask all politicians who are still on the fence, to vote your conscience. Do what is morally right. Stand on moral principals. You do not need to change your vote to 'change with the times' as the senator from my district put it. One day, when you

stand before God, he will say to you, "Well done my good and faithful servant. Enter." And to those who allowed the evil forces to influence them, God will say, "Depart from me you evil doer, I do not know you." Our time on earth are numbered. Make it count. "Do what is morally right, not what you feel"~ a phrase I would often use on my own children, guiding them throughout their growing up years. My sons are now 25, 23, and 21. Children learn what they live....children live what they learn.

Sincerely,

Shanita Akana (wife to John Akana, mother to Kyle, Brock and Bradley Akana)

From: Shannon Kanekoa
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:35:13 PM

Aloha Mr. McKelvey and All Representatives of the People of the State of Hawaii,

As a registered voter in our beautiful and loving State, I would like to make my thoughts known to you concerning the 'Same Sex Marriage' initiative that you have been called upon by our Governor to vote on and represent the needs of the people of your districts.

Remember when we, the People, voted on this same issue several years ago? We, the People, voted that we did not want to change the definition of "Marriage" to include same sex marriage partners. It was a solid majority of our People who asked that "Marriage" remain as defined, only between a man and a woman. You accepted our vote at that time. Why do you now believe that we would change our minds so quickly on something that is so vital to the health and welfare of Families, as Families have been defined since time immemorial? We are not that wishy-washy, we know what is right and what is not right!

Now that the Governor wants to 'go around' the voting of the People, Please vote NO on this measure and respect the wishes of the people of Hawaii.

Mahalo for doing the "will of the People", as you campaigned to do when you were elected,

Shannon L. Kanekoa
26 W. Aipuni Place
Lahaina, Hawaii 96761
808-760-6060

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: shanonsidell@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:33:03 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Shanon	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha Legislators, I write this before heading out to Sunday service. My values are liberty, social justice, compassion and respect for the dignity and worth of the individual. The inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all human beings are the foundations of freedom, justice, and peace. I support the separation of State and Church as set forth in the Constitution of the United States of America in the First Amendment as well as Article VI, and believe this right is meant to support equality, not erode it. Separation of State and Church is meant to insure that no single religion can impose its particular beliefs on members of the general population. I support SB1

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marriage because Same Sex Marriage violates Chinese Tradition.

American Chinese are very serious about family. We tell the youth that taking care the elderlies in the family is their duty. We finance businesses through family. We borrow money to buy properties through family. We obtain the best education through family.

We know from our hearts that we need love from father and mother, so we apply the same to others. Our children need love from their father and mother as we do.

Same Sex Marriage bill is going to destroy Chinese tradition. We want our local boys and girls know that rearing family biologically is the best. We want to give the best to our future.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

From: Sharon Martin
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY - MRS. SHARON T. MARTIN
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:26:09 PM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am a voting resident residing in Kaneohe. I am adamantly opposed to the proposed Senate Bill 1 relating to Marriage Equality. I urge all of you to consider the destructive ramifications of the passage of such a Bill on traditional families, our school educational system (state as well as private), our businesses, and on every individual in our state.

This Bill tramples on our first amendment right - The Right of Religion and Expression. I believe in God's definition of marriage between one man and one woman and stand by His Word. I urge you to NOT approve this Senate Bill.

Mahalo to you all for your time, consideration, and all that you do for our beautiful State.

With warm regards,
Mrs. Sharon T. Martin
Pharmacist, Castle Medical Center
Wife and Mother of Three

email: sharonmartin7@gmail.com
ph# 391-8508
45-621 Halelo Place
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

From: Shayna Kaneko
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Testimony
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 12:53:13 PM

Aloha!

As a resident of Hawaii, I would like to take this time to ask you to stop the Special Session on Marriage Equality and let the people vote on marriage. We are only 2 months away from a Regular Session, so what's the rush with this Special Session? Also, marriage is not equality and it does not need to be redefined! When they changed the law about race, they didn't change the definition of race, When they made a law that women were allowed to vote, they didn't change the definition of women or voting. So why change the definition of marriage? I heard polls shows that majority of Hawaii wants same-gender marriage, but I was never asked about that! So if that's what they say, why not let the people vote? Do you know what will happen if this bill passes? If you don't, read about what happened to Massachusetts and how their state is falling apart. It will also happen to us, if we don't do anything about it. Our children will be learning from kindergarden how to have gay sex. I'm not a parent yet, but I do want kids, and I would not want my children to learn about sex at such a young age. Please consider to kill this bill or let the people of Hawaii vote on marriage!

Thank you for your time!

Mahalo,

Shayna Kaneko

From: Sheldon Lacsina
To: JUDSStestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov; JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly; JDLTestimony
Subject: WRITTEN TESTIMONY
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:22:28 AM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

I oppose this bill due to the lack of the democratic process. The majority of Hawaii DOES NOT WANT SAME SEX MARRIAGE as a law. The ramifications of this law has not been well thought through, religions are not protected fairly, businesses are not protected fairly, and rushing this bill through will have negative consequences for sure...just do the research with the states that have passed this law.

Yes, in 1998, we voted to "grant the Hawaii State Legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples," only because that's what was worded. It should've said, "Marriage in the state of Hawaii is reserved between one man and one woman." But it was worded that way so that you could do what you're doing today, which is not how our constitution works.

This is not the best way to go about the most critical issue facing our time. You know as well as I do, the way it's being done and the way the bill is worded, VIOLATES THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sheldon Lacsina
Kea'au, Hawaii 96749
DISTRICT 4

From: Sheri-Lyn Angala
To: JDLTestimony; jdusstestimony@capitol.hawaii.com
Subject: Testimony in opposition to SB1
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:04:14 AM

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to you to oppose Bill SB1 Relating to equal rights And Recognizing marriages of same-sex.

I am a human resources professional and a mother of three children. I strongly feel that this bill, should it be passed, will negatively impact families and our community. It will result in the loss of religious freedom for many religious leaders, organizations, individuals and small businesses. More importantly, It will also redefine marriage and as such will contribute to the deterioration of the traditional family which will lead to the eventual downfall of our society.

I truly hope that you will take my consideration to heart and consider not passing SB-1.

Mahalo,
Sheri-Lyn Angala
Mililani resident

From:	shirley ching
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 12:55:23 AM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I would like to inform you that **I am not in favor of SENATE BILL 1** as in infringes on what our "Church Miracle Faith Apostolic Global Church believes. We believe that God has ordanined over 2000 years ago that marriage is between one man and one woman. We believe that "Matrimony" is one of the seventh sacraments that God provided for a man and a woman. **Marriage is a supernatural act performed by the divine grace of God so that two human beings a male and female becomes one flesh. "Our Lord said in the Bible let no man separate what he had put together." This Senate Bill 1 is separating the Marriage Law that God had provided for a man and a woman.**

Couples of the same sex have already been given Civil Union Rights. By changing the Law of marriage to allow them to marry is taking away our rights and beliefs that marriage is a **living sacrament from God, Holy between one man and one woman.**

I am asking you to please reconsider my testimony and not pass Senate Bill 1 and allow the people to vote on this issue.

Shirley P. Ching,

Ministered member with Chrisitian Harfouche Miracle Ministries International

From: welnesdoc@hawaiiantel.net
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Subject: SB 1
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 5:59:29 PM

Dear members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am a constituent of Senate district 4 and want to voice my opinion concerning SB 1.

I am against same sex marriage and want my elected officials to vote against SB 1. Several years ago the people of Hawaii voted on their ballots against same sex marriage the now the Governor has taken it upon himself to promote the cause of a FEW in the state who have loud voices.

SB 1 has language that is not specific and could cause churches to lose their religious freedom. It is a poorly worded bill and needs refinement at the least and be dismissed entirely at its best.

Mahalo,

Stacey Nagareda

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: tanalee05@Gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:17:06 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Tana-Lee Rebhan-Kang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Just say "No!" to same sex marriage, today, tomorrow, and always. I'm 63 years old, homosexual all the days of my life. l stopped "practicing" in 1984 when I became a Christian. When two male pipes or two female pipes can be joined to provide water; when two tabs or two slots can be joined to build a project; when two plugs or two outlets can be joined to provide electricity; or when two men or two women can be joined to produce a child without the aid of the opposite sex, I'll be for same sex marriage. Anyone who thinks there is nothing wrong with homosexuality is in denial. We are a bunch of lost sheep looking for love in all the wrong places. Legally speaking, why do married people have benefits single people don't? Maybe we singles should start our own "civil rights" movement.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Honorable Senator Hee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 1.

I would like to share a little bit about myself so that you might know what I'm asking and why it's important not to just me, but to society and our great nation as a whole.

I am a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, colloquially known as the Mormons. I'm sure you are well aware of my church's stance on same-sex marriage, so I won't spend more time on that other than to say we believe it to be an immoral practice and detrimental to society. However, something that isn't often focused on as much is our belief in agency. While I believe homosexuality is immoral, I also believe very strongly in our right to choose for ourselves. In fact, one of our Articles of Faith states: "We claim the privilege of worshiping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and *allow all men the same privilege,* let them worship how, where, or what they may." (italics added)

I am deeply concerned that in our society's pursuit of the right for same-sex couples to marry, freedom of religion and the rights of churches will be eroded. Please do what is in your power to ensure that any bill considered in favor of same-sex marriage also protects the rights of churches and businesses to conduct themselves in accordance with their own moral codes. While I personally believe that government has no right to define marriage at all, it is what it is and I cannot let this opportunity pass by without adding my voice to the conversation.

Thank you for your time and consideration and for all that you do in service to our community. I hope that adding my thoughts and perspective will aid you and others in the legislative process in protecting ALL freedom and rights.

Tasheena Zickgraf

From: Baruch Hashem
To: JDLTestimony-WrittenOnly
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 4:56:15 PM

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

RE: Bill #SB1

Hearing : Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium of the State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

My name is Teresa Shuptrine. I was born and raised in Hawaii all my life. My ancestry is Hawaiian, Chinese, and Caucasian.

I would like to offer my opposition to SB1, Relating to Equal Rights.

I lived the homosexual life at least twenty five (25) years. My father was a Navy man and was out to sea about six months to a year at a time. My mother was ill with severe rheumatoid arthritis and spent most of her time in her room. My older brother cared for me. As I was growing up, my dad and brother were my role models.

I became attracted to females at a very young age. It troubled me and caused me great torment throughout my life. I was brought up a devout Catholic and was unable to discuss this matter with anyone. I lived the closet life as I felt so ashamed, humiliated and condemned. It felt like a life in bondage with no peace. I prayed constantly to be changed with no avail. Many of my gay guy friends died due to aids.

The unnatural became so natural and the natural felt so unnatural. At this time of life I continued to identify as a lesbian. I believed I was born this way. I later felt that this was my cross to bear in life.

With the grace of God I was able to change. I have been set free for about 20 years now. The Lord revealed to me that I was always looking for a mother's love. I also realize that being a lesbian was a choice and I was not born this way.

In closing, the reason I oppose gay marriage is because what gay people really want is the love and affirmation of a mother or father that they didn't get or they were touched inappropriately at some point in life.

From: Timothy Ma
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 1:31:36 PM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Timothy Ma, I am a registered voter in Oahu, and I am in opposition Senate Bill 1 - legalizing same sex marriage in the state of Hawaii.

Here are my reasons opposing the bill:

Same-sex marriage should not be passed in a special session because: No amendments can be made to legislation. As a result the voice of the people is NOT adequately heard in a five-days special session, especially if that voice is "amend the bill".

Legislators must respect fundamental democratic principles: The people believed they voted on this issue in 1998 – the current polls show that Hawaii favors same-sex marriage. So why not let the people vote?

Marriage is an institution and NOT a civil right, and no court (including the Supreme Court) has ever said that it is.

The governor's current bill will NOT protect church facilities. Churches that offers a public service (such as a preschool, a meeting place for community groups like a neighborhood board, Zumba classes etc.) by definition your church is a public accommodation and would be legally obligated to sanction a same-sex marriage if it were requested.

I implore you members of the Committee and Judiciary and Labor to please heed precaution approaching this session and making the democratic decision by allowing this bill to have its proper place and time in a normal session.

Mahalo for your service and hearing the voice of the people,
Tim
--
Timothy Ma
Direct | 808-208-5138
Email | tim.ma@everynation.org

From: Tracy Hao
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Personal Testimony of Same Sex Marriage Issue
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:01:40 PM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Tracy Ann Kapua Hao. I am 54 yrs old. I am of Hawaiian Korean Ancestry. I lived and was raised in the state of Indiana and I now live on the island of Molokai. I have 4 children and 5 grandchildren. Today, my ohana has 4 generations living but I was privileged to have known my grandparents and great grandparents at time when we were 5 generations living in Hawaii. I know my history as a hawaiian and i know it from a point of view of my great and grandparents and I know for certain beyond a shadow of a doubt that they knew and loved the Lord and lived by God and His words. They would not agree with what is happening today and I know that they would be here standing against same sex marriage. I do not agree with what is being considered today and as a christian I stand here today united in the Lord and in His heart and in His desire for us to live according to His will. I ask you please to consider the hearts of the people of Hawaii but more importantly "Na keiki o Hawaii" to consider what they will have to endure in order to live here. I say with great sadness....our children have enough to deal with in this world the way it is, how much more do we expect our children to continue to live or to even survive in a world we are already wanting to destroy. Again please, please think about our keiki and vote "no"....Mahalo.

From:	Tracy Hao
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	Personal Testimony of same sex marraige issue
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 11:31:40 PM

I am thankful that we live in a country where we have a voice. I am thankful to you who represent us, for all your hard work. Being out in the community I believe the majority of the voice of the people is asking for a NO vote on this. I am a mom, grandmother, a greatgrandmother and this is areal concern. I believe our children are a God given gift, not to be taken lightly. I believe we all have a right to make choices, but not to make changes to accommodate our choices, Please consider a NO vote.
Mahalo

To The Committee on Judiciary and Labor
SB 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013
TIME: 10:30A.M.

Written testimony **opposing** the gay marriage bill. I will not be testifying in person.

I am opposed to the gay marriage bill. This issue is so divisive that our legislators should let the people of this State decide via a vote in 2014.

Firstly, the main reason I oppose this bill is that I feel the LGBT community should be taking their fight to the US Senate and House of Representatives. They say they want equality under the tax laws. They should lobby to have the Federal Tax Code changed so that the IRS will recognize civil unions and allow those couples to file jointly on their Federal Tax Returns so that they may receive the same tax benefits that heterosexual couples receive. If the tax codes change, there's no reason for "marriage", since by their own admission, the reason they want marriage is to enjoy the same economic benefits that heterosexual couples receive; to be treated equally. Their efforts to change the marriage laws in 50 States create contention, discord and divide communities.

Secondly, they were given civil unions/ domestic partnerships. Even though there is no constitutional "right to marry", they clamor for the "right" to marry. If they achieve that goal, they will continue with their agenda of making the homosexual lifestyle as accepting as the heterosexual lifestyle. They will move to press this agenda by demanding changes to school curriculum. They'll be asking for equal lifestyle coverage in sex education text books. Research of those states that were the first to allow gay marriage finds that many schools are doing just that. In addition, many teachers are trying to be "politically correct" to the point of allowing posters reflecting the homosexual lifestyle while prohibiting posters of heterosexual lifestyles. They have been many court challenges in these schools. Is this what we want for our State?

Thirdly, saying they should be able to marry whom they love, they are really saying that they want society to validate and affirm their lifestyle and choice of sexual partner.

Lastly, to elevate civil unions to the status of sacramental marriage is an insult to religious tradition and the institution of marriage. Marriage of homosexuals is a sterile relationship; a mockery of an ancient institution that has served mankind for the propagation of the human race.

To pass a gay marriage bill without putting it to a vote by the people is underhanded.

Let the people decide; put it on the ballot in 2014.

Thank you.

From:	veronica enos
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date:	Thursday, October 24, 2013 5:12:53 AM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

‘O wau iho no ‘o Veronica Ahulani Enos Wright, he kupa ‘o Hau‘ula, O‘ahu. He makua au; he kumu au; a he wahine kako‘o i ka male ‘ana o ke kane i ka wahine wale no.

My name is Veronica Ahulani Enos Wright of Hau‘ula, O‘ahu. I am a parent; I am a teacher; and I am a woman who supports traditional marriage between a man and a woman.

I ask you to please vote **NO** on the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act. I do so because this Act will take away my right to my beliefs of traditional marriage. If this law passes, those who share my traditional marriage beliefs will be forced to accept what we have the right to disagree with. Because of the verbiage in section 572-G, religious organizations that do not follow **all** 3 of the conditions will be **FORCED** to open its facilities to perform same-sex marriage or suffer penalties for discrimination. This will destroy our religious freedoms!

As a mother, I have witnessed what happened in Massachusetts when same-sex marriage was made lawful there, and I fear for what will be taught in school and allowed to enter the classroom **without my consent, notification, or approval because of its lawfulness.** This again is destroying my rights as a MOTHER to decide what I want to teach my children about marriage. I fear as a DOE teacher that I will be forced to teach what I do not agree with. What will that do to MY FREEDOMS? By passing this law, you will be DENYING my FREEDOM to stand behind my personal beliefs, to decide on what I want for my children, and the right for religious groups to practice what they believe.

Vote **NO** on the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act to preserve my rights and the sanctity of marriage. If not, you will definitely NOT have my support during the next election.

Sincerely,
Veronica Ahulani Enos Wright
54-225 Hau‘ula Homestead Rd.
Hau‘ula, HI 96717
enosahulani@yahoo.com

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am opposing Same Sex Marraige because of our heartfelt concern and compassion for the future of our state. I concern over the physical, mental and emotional problems that will beset those who choose the homosexual lifestyle, and I object to what this will do to our community, my children and to my traditional family life. Evidence clearly show that children must be raised in a traditional family environment to thrive and to grow.

In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

I am opposed to the same sex marriage bill.

In no way should this bill jeopardize our religious freedom.

Let the people vote! Put it on a ballot!

Wade Lonokapu

From: agenaw001
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: SB 1 Relating to Equality
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 7:50:14 AM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Walter Agena, age 68-years, Hawaii resident since 1945. Mahalo for your dedication and labor in seeking to do what is best for the entire State of Hawaii. I believe we recognize we live in a time we are to enjoy life with our neighbors, next door or down the street and even across the State. However, recent news of Hawaii reflect that is not so. There will always be an opinion or understanding of an issue that is not what the other individual might believe it to be. How do we, the people of Hawaii, come together to agree or even disagree on the matter if we cannot individually make a decision on the matter at hand.

I would like to be on record that as a constituent in District 1, I believe a decision regarding Senate Bill 1 Relating to Equality should be decided upon by the people of Hawaii. Let each voice be heard by how they vote on this matter that is causing much concern and division. This was previously done in 1998 and the people voiced their decision by means of the ballot. If there is a change in what the people believe, then the people should decide. I urge you to consider this and let the people of Hawaii make their decision.

Once again, mahalo for your time and commitment!

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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In addition, legalizing Same Sex Marriage will have a negative effect on the liberties of religious freedom, as it relates to what the Bible holds as God's Truth and Christians' freedom to teach from it. Government should never define moral value and limit the teachings of faith group. Legalizing Same Sex Marriage will put a threat to religious freedom.

Therefore, please vote NO on any piece of the Same Sex Marriage bill!

From:	Sam Meredith
To:	JDLTestimony
Subject:	TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date:	Sunday, October 27, 2013 9:01:22 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing you to voice my opinion and concern on the matter of same sex marriage. I am against this bill because I believe that it will take away from my first amendment religious rights. I am also against this bill because I believe that God created man and women and that marriage and procreation is a sacred ordinance that God intended between male and female, without it the future of our kids will encounter problems with aids, and not being able to procreate life. I vote to have the people decide on the matter.

Mahalo,

William Meredith

Kaneohe Resident.

From: William Wong, Jr.
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 10:10:01 PM

For the Senate hearing: Hearing on 10/28 @ 10:30am (testimony due by email, fax or mail by 10/27 @ 10:30am)

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

We are in opposition of SB1 proposing to legalize same sex marriage in Hawaii. Please respect the sanctity of marriage which is deemed to be between a man and woman, with the purpose of creating an eternal bond and propagating the human species. The passing of this bill would violate this natural and holy relationship.

Thank you,

William and Kerri Wong

From: YuenWah (Anita) Choy
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:09:04 AM

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Aloha Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and labor:

I am an early childhood educator with over 25 years of experiences. Last week, with honor, I watched the news about teenagers killing teachers in Las Vegas and Massachusetts. These young men who committed such violent crimes showed low self-image and confused identity.

I am afraid that a home without a father and a mother will make it worst for young people to deal with their self-image and identity. They need a home that shows clear role distinctions of male and female to support them.

Therefore, for the sake of our kids and the generations that followed, please keep traditional marriage of one man and one woman. It's the best for our children, and for your children. A stable home needs a clear male and female model.

Thank you for trying to do a good job for all in the State, especially for our kiekies. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Yuen Wah Choy
5543 Kanau St..
Honolulu, Hi 96821

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: bootsaloha@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:17:13 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/24/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Vicki L. Davis	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear legislature, I want to express my deep concern over having gay marriages approved in Hawaii. The people of Hawaii should be provided the opportunity to vote on this very important issue, not the legislature in special session. This in itself is taking away my right to vote against the bill. I believe that marriage should only be between a man and a woman, and that by accepting and legalizing gay marriages in Hawaii, it will decay the core of our family values. In this sense, you, the legislature who we vote in to represent and protect us, are deciding on the moral value of my environment and the environment of my grandson. This is not fair to me as a citizen, to make this choice for me. I should be able to vote, and many others in our state of Hawaii would vote with me. Please vote against this bill. I appreciate you taking time to listen to my testimony. Aloha, Vicki L. Davis Hilo, Hawaii

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My name is Rojelio Herrera Jr. and I have been a resident of Mililani for the past 12 years. My wife and I have been raising eleven children in a state and a community that we believe appreciated our right to teach our children our values.

Our children range from 31-4 years old—they are adult professionals in education, military, retail sales, engineering, religious education and we still have six more who have yet to decide. We have five adopted children—Hawaiian/Chinese, Samoan, Filipino—and consider each one of them to be as precious as any of our own children. They are the reason that I am testifying tonight. They deserve the right to be raised in the same safe environment as their older brothers and sisters.

SB-1, Relating to Equal Rights, tells me that our Governor does NOT respect my right, nor my responsibility as a parent. By the way, as a small boy who lived in the Washington DC area during the Civil Rights movement of the early 1960's, I appreciate more than most what a civil right really is.

Same Sex Marriage is NOT a civil right. In fact, one of my adult daughters who has lived in the lesbian world for the past decade agrees with me. She strongly believes "marriage" is NOT appropriate for people who live a gay/lesbian life style.

We are not a perfect family, but we strongly believe—no, we know—we can raise our children much better than our government. Please do NOT ignore the studies that explain the pain/guilt placed on children raised in same sex environments. The studies are rigorous and comprehensive. And the results are compelling--"marriage" is NOT appropriate for people who live a gay/lesbian life style.

Vote NO to SB-1. Thank you.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	paradisesubmarine@yahoo.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:22:07 AM
Attachments:	SSM Massachusetts-1.txt

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Craig F. Heath	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please educate yourselves before you make a decision on "same sex marriage" for the State of Hawaii. The attached pages are a brief example of what could happen and probably would happen here. The State of Massachusetts is in a major mess. We, the people of Hawaii can not have this evil in our beautiful State. Please, please , do not allow this "same sex marriage" bill to pass, it is not good for America and it is not good for Hawaii. Our Governor is definately wrong to think this bill is good for Hawaii. Please read the attachment and then decide. Thank You, Craig F. Heath Wailuku Voter

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: leaj37white@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 8:51:35 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Judith White	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: If you are the voice of the people, I am here to say please vote 'NO' to same sex marriage. As a retired teacher for the State of Hawaii, I have seen over the last 4 decades a demise and degradation of the American family. There are no winners when a family is torn apart, as you well know. This broken family unit has caused great confusion for children, and adults. I believe that same sex marriage will profoundly contribute to this confusion and further divide the families of Hawaii. I firmly believe that the belief that same sex marriage is an equal rights issue is in error. We already have equal rights, but this is really an issue IF passed that takes away the rights of others by imposing new laws that totally infringe on others lives. I believe this legislation on same sex marriage is just a sign that many have lost there way when it comes to what our creator God, says about marriage between a man and a woman and His design for our lives and children. It is clear. There is no gray area about it. This is just one more thing that will divide families and children in the long run. Not everyone holds to these Biblical beliefs, I am well aware of that, but because you represent me here on Maui, if I don't speak out to you my representatives, I can not complain when the vote is cast. Your vote counts for us. Aloha, Judith White

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	rethman@hotmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Wednesday, October 23, 2013 9:05:53 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Michael Rethman	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Here's why a gay marriage regime is a very bad idea: 1) The family is in crisis, too many kids born out of wedlock, too many abortions, too little efforts by individual members of Hillary's "village" -- no longer performing traditional "village" tasks for which the government is inappropriate, inefficient and ultimately ineffective. 2) Marriage of biological parents is, on average, the best circumstance for child-rearing 3) Marriage is on the decline. 4) Gay marriage helps accelerate the decline of heterosexual marriage, thereby further contributing to the decline of the family. 5) A gay marriage regime muddles gender roles -- some may applaud this -- but such meddling should be seen in the context of evolution. Gender roles are what they are via the process of natural selection. Marriage evolved as a means to protect women and children. If one fears anthropogenic climate change, one should fear anthropogenic marriage change even more. I know the arguments in favor of gay marriage, but civil unions can provide the same benefits to committed homosexual couples. Why must marriage be put on the sacrificial altar here, esp. in light of the alternatives? From a cost v. benefit basis I trust you will look beyond (the cynical view) that a gay marriage regime will enhance Hawaii as a visitor venue -- and stop promoting it. On the contrary, strongly supporting heterosexual marriage is an important first step towards reclaiming traditional family values needed to raise productive (not destructive) children. As much as you and I may wish it was otherwise, gay marriage does the contrary, indeed gay marriage is one more nail in the coffin of responsible policy with regard to encouraging marriage between biological parents.

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October 23, 2013

Dear Members of the House and State Legislature

My name is Barney Munnalall. I am the pastor of a church in Kealakekua, Hawaii. As a resident of Hawaii, I am writing to urge you to vote NO on same-sex marriage and encourage your fellow elected officials to do the same.

Governor Abercrombie has called a special session to vote on this issue. I strongly feel that this is not the right way to go about this.

1) I believe Same-sex marriage should not be passed in a special session for the following reasons:
    a. A five day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time,
    b. No amendments can be made to legislation. As a result, true democracy is made a mockery of.
    c. Hawaii is the only state rushing into special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision. If the need was truly dire, then why haven't the other 34 states that do not permit same-sex marriages done so?
    d. A 'yes' vote during special session is a 'no' vote to democracy because the voice of the people is NOT heard in a five-days special session, especially if that voice is "amend the bill".
    e. The so-called religious exemption language is rendered invalid because of the public accommodations carve out.
    f. The people believed they voted on this issue in 1998 – the polls show that Hawaii favors same-sex marriage. So why not let the people vote?

2) Legislators must respect fundamental democratic principles:
    a. The people believed they addressed the issue in 1998, and should be the ones consulted again.
    b. Marriage is NOT a civil right, and no court (including the Supreme Court) has ever said that it is.
    c. A constitutional amendment would better address same-sex marriage AND allow for ample public input.

3) The governor's current bill will NOT protect church facilities (contrary to what he wants you to believe). If a church offers a public service (such as a preschool, a meeting place for community groups like a neighborhood board, Alcoholics Anonymous, Zumba classes etc.), by definition that church would be a public accommodation and would be legally obligated to sanction a same-sex marriage if it were requested.

Thank you for allowing me to write to you. Please give my testimony your thoughtful consideration. I hope that you will vote against same-sex marriage. I look forward to hearing back from you. Is there any message you would like me to convey to my congregation on this issue? Thank you once again.

Sincerely,
Barney Munnlall

81-6367 Keopuka Pl.
Kealakekua, HI, 96750

October 23, 2013

Dear Honorable Governor Abercrombie and honorable members of the Hawaii State Senate and House of Representatives:

I am a citizen of the State of Hawaii and a voting constituent of House District 3 and Senate District 1, and I care about the future of our society in this island State, both for economic and social reasons. The Big Island has been subject to so many challenges, and with the newest discussion that the Legislature is now bringing forth (SB 1) or a version related to, I am compelled to state my opposition to the matter of Marital Equity as being proposed by all legislative bodies.

In other states, this type of matter needs to be brought for public vote, thus allowing people of Hawaii to think this very serious matter through. The issue is not simply an issue of sexuality, and perceived civil rights, but a matter of social concern for the wellbeing of the people. Our society has become more confused over time about many things, and rushing these matters through without the time for people to process the entire issue at hand would be a great disservice to the people. We should look at the matter of civil unions first, and determine if that is a more equitable path to pursue.

The other matter is the concern over the religious exemption that should occur as the Federal Laws has determined that must occur, in particular, the choice of and the recognition of the protections of religious freedoms. If the position of the legislative body who do not recognize that there are a significant group of the islands' citizenry who have, and follow, some type of religious belief system that does not support same-sex marriage, then their freedoms would be negated. Again, the matter needs to be further thought through with more than 1 weeks' worth of serious discussion, and with input from the public (i.e., a broad spectrum of public input is needed).

As a person who now believes that there is a God, and who believes that marriage between a male and female (both as biologically defined) needs to remain as currently stated both in the marital laws that are recognized by the State and Federal Government. The Supreme Court's recent decision on the United States v. Windsor (12-307) indicated to me that the Supreme Court <u>is not firmly convinced</u> of the argument for the decision regarding this matter, and that a <u>split vote is what prevailed</u>. A 5-4 margin is not conclusive in what reasonably considered an overriding majority.

Therefore, I would kindly ask that this matter should be afforded the opportunity for public input via ballot measure during the next election.

Thank you for your consideration of my written testimony,

Sincerely,

Susan Shirachi
PO Box 10826
Hilo, Hawaii 96721

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: rissey1992@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:40:47 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/23/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Cherisse	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Homosexuality used to be considered a disorder, like pedophiliality. Opening the law to one disorder is asking for all others to stand up and demand rights, when what they really need is mental help.

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First of all, I would like to thank you for your service to your respective districts and the State of Hawaii. Mahalo for all of your hard work.

I respectfully urge you to vote “no” on the same sex marriage bill for the following reasons:

1) The religious exemption in the bill will not apply to most churches as they will not qualify for the exemption due to the public accommodation requirement. Churches will be forced to use their facilities for SSM purposes or open themselves to lawsuits.

2) How can the State force the Church to comply with something that is against their religious conviction. I thought that separation of church and state meant that the State was not allowed to make laws that told the church how to practice their faith.

3) The first amendment rights in this bill is not specific. Other States who passed a SSM law was specific concerning the 1st Amendment rights. Why doesn’t the proposed bill contain verbiage regarding the 1st Amendment.

4) The people of Hawaii will be forced to accept a law without enough input. 5-6 days is not enough time for public input and discussion. Especially for an issue that is important as this. Why the rush to pass this bill? Are the other states that do not have a SSM bill rushing? Are they holding special sessions? It appears that there is something amiss in this Special Session.

5) The legislature will not be allowed to amend any bill approved in a Special Session. There is not an adequate amount of time to discuss this bill. You will be passing a bad bill that cannot be changed.

6) Why not let the people vote on this issue? We overwhelmingly voted against it in 1998 presuming that the legislature will define marriage in the terms of a traditional marriage. You are turning the tables on the voters.

7) Claims that SSM is a civil right is a fallacy. Which court in the United States has ever defined any marriage whether it be same sex marriage or traditional marriage as a civil right?

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns to this issue.

Sincerely,

Laura Rodrigues
Hilo Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: stcomalley@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 4:57:53 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/24/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Sean O'Malley	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I have been married to my wife for 26 years. We were married in a civil wedding, not in a church, and our bond does not seek religious justification for its existence. In this nation the term “marriage” applies to two things: a union recognized by the state, and a union recognized by a religious organization. Because the term “marriage” is applied to both, some vocal religious organizations seem to feel that allowing the state-sponsored legal rights accorded to married couples should not be done on the basis of their religious beliefs. This is wrong, and it’s hard to see how such discriminatory thinking can continue to be justified at the government level. The American society accepts. The American society accommodates difference. The American society aims for equality. This is the goal of our nation, an elusive and challenging goal that we must actively strive to meet. Fourteen states and the District of Columbia acknowledge same-sex marriage as a legal right. Younger Americans recognize the fairness in equal rights for marriage; the trend is clear. Hawaii can either be a leader among the states, or an embarrassing throwback to shameful discrimination. It’s time.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: ehchung5@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 6:10:55 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/24/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Erin Healani Chung	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Do what you know is just and fair and right. Be ethical, be moral, be the Aloha State that I am so proud to call home. Continue to bring Hawai'i into the 21st century and leave behind prejudice and hate. Pass this bill because it is the only logical thing to do. Aloha, Erin Healani Chung

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: cherlynreyes75@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 8:34:22 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/24/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Cherlyn Reyes	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: This situation is very open and heartfelt to me. I thank you for your time in reading my email. We all need to go back in time and understand how the Constitution of the United States began and where marriage came from. When our country first started, all honor and trust was given onto GOD. And blessings, protection, and his love, and grace was poured out into our country. Then and the future after, economy had gotten better. The world was changing for the better from GODS love and blessings. All of our money, bills and coins, state "IN GOD WE TRUST". No wonder we are getting into so much debt. Because as money was made, not even man trusts in what it states. And our pledge of allegiance. "ONE NATION UNDER GOD" We need to continue to be exactly that. Overtime, people got confused and miss lead. Everyone needs to know the truth. And the truth shall set us free. The devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy. And everyone wonders why our world has been leading to destruction and hardship... It's because while this world is supposed to be One Nation Under God, they are feeding the devil and giving him glory by giving into his evil schemes. If you think this is bad, of what the world is encountering now, imagine how it will be when more things change. Like this Same Sex Marriage bill in Hawaii. Imagine what this will draw if passed. Imagine what it will do to this state, our families, and generations to come. (Most of our visitors, they come here because its an ALOHA state the beauty of our islands. And the people that reside here. What do you think will happen if this bills passes?) What do u think would happen next? Do u think your families and generations to come would not be affected by this? Why suffer?, when u can be free from complications and stress? Whoever is agreeing to this bill and whoever is part of it, they too are letting the devil in and letting him have control. The devil will stir up drama and hate. I'm just a citizen looking out for our island, our state, and our people. We need to remember GOD was worshiped, respected, and obeyed by the United States of America long long ago. United States of America started with GOD in it and having GOD centered in it. Why change what the before senators and legislators had created? We as the state of Hawaii, already being an amazing state itself, we are not like other states, because many residents here, really live by the ALOHA spirit and the love GOD fills us with. We don't have much violence or harm like the mainland. Why is that so? And do u think we have enough divorce rates already? What will it be then if this bill passes? I

have no fight against people only matters like this that I need to step out and speak the truth. As you consider the legislation before you, I want to make it very clear that I do not support same-sex "marriage." I AM NOT AGAINST THE PEOPLE HAVING SAME SEX RELATIONSHIPS. BUT I AM AGAINST THIS BILL.

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This is an important piece of legislation that should only be voted upon by the people of Hawaii. Our representatives do not have the right to act for us in this vote. LET THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII MAKE THAT DECISSION.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: surlester@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:14:21 PM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/26/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
surlester mcbride	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Please amend the bill adding an educational component. We would like to protect schools be legislating that know same sex curriculum can ever be added to any school in Hawaii at any level at any time.

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From: bnaka
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Opposition to Same Sex Marriage
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 9:24:41 AM

I have gay family members who I love dearly - it is precisely because I love them and my children that I will always oppose gay marriage. You see, the premise for homosexuality is that a child was born with a defect in who they are, that they are somehow a mistake. Bull___. They were born exactly as God meant them to be - PERFECT. I will NEVER accept or allow any teaching otherwise to be taught to my children or said of those I love.

Bambi Nakamura
1427 Dominis St.
Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 206-3097

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: metcalf@hawaiilink.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 6:36:44 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
christopher metcalf	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: By bringing this to a vote in special session what you are saying is "I could care less about the faith community" The LGBT community already has civil unions and benefits etc… There agenda is not about the ceremony at all. This measure will forever alter Hawaii businesses, churches, schools, hospitals etc…. You are saying I do not care about what the people faith think is important and I want to push their concerns out of the public dialogue. PLEASE for the sake of Hawaii vote NO. Just look at the conversation taking place in our state. That is proof of the pushing of agendas. This is not about rights at all. Those are given with the Civil Union bill. Just admit this is about silencing the faith community.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: ramajackie@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 8:19:38 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jackie Rama	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: My family of 5 SUPPORTS TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE. We oppose GAY MARRIAGE. We will vote according only for representatives who share our concern for protecting the traditional family! Thank you! Paul, Jackie, Brooke, Blaine, and Bailey

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From:	Jennifer Meek
To:	JDLTestimony; JUDSStestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov; governor.; Sen. Russell Ruderman; Rep. Faye Hanohano
Subject:	Same Sex Marriage Testimony
Date:	Saturday, October 26, 2013 8:37:50 PM

I am not opposed to same sex couples having the same legal rights as heterosexual couples. However, I am opposed to the way this major issue is being addressed. A special session greatly limits the voice of the Hawaii people. In a special session the legislative process will be crammed into a few short days with the voice of the people having little if any impact. If we delay this important issue just a couple of months the people will have many more chances to voice their opinions during the many weeks of the upcoming normal session of the legislators. Why the rush!

At this time .2% of Hawaii residents (that's 2 of every 1000) are engaged in civil unions. Most if not all the people wanting same sex marriage are those now in civil unions. Is delaying the 2 out of 1000 people for a couple of months worth greatly limiting the voice of most of the other 998 of 1000 people? In a regular session some of the major issues that could be more fully examined include- are there any other ways to give the certain privileges being sought to the 2 out of 1000 people. Are some of the rights of the 998 out of 1000 people going to be denied due to this new law? At this time the language of the new law will infringe on many of the rights of the 998. In other states where same sex marriage has been passed the rights of businesses, churches, and parents have already been smashed. (For evidences see: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZX55HUPFSU&feature=share)

We should either put this important issue to the vote of the people or put it through the normal legislative process where the people will be able to give a full voice to the issue. On issues of this magnitude the voice of the people should not be diminished. If the rights of many the 998 out of 1000 are being diminished and they can at least have a full voice before those rights are being diminished is one thing. But if you are diminishing those rights while at the same time greatly limiting the voice of these 998 to speak about it is another thing. Either put this most important issue to a vote of the people or stop the special session and let the people give full voice to their concerns in the regular legislative session which will take place in a couple of short months

Jennifer Meek

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: mauisun@clearwire.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 11:25:42 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Joan Merrill	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I strongly disagree with this amendment to allow same sex marriages in Hawaii. I would not vote for any representative that supports the same sex marriage vote to pass, now or in the future.

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From: Joe Kent
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Re: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Date: Saturday, October 26, 2013 10:27:43 AM

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

My name is Joe Kent, and I'm offering SUPPORT to the legalizing of gay marriage. Gay people should be allowed to marry.

However, I am in OPPOSITION to the state telling businesses what to do. A business that wants to discriminate against gay people will already have dire consequences (they will lose business, and they'll get bad press). They don't need the state to make them criminals too.

After all, how is it moral to give one group freedom, and take away the freedom of another group? Both groups should be free.

A member of my family is gay, and I SUPPORT his right to marry anyone he chooses. But I OPPOSE the state telling businesses what they can and can't do. Please change this portion of the bill.

Joe Kent

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: alohalani21@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 9:50:10 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kealoha Laemoa	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha My name is Kealoha Laemoa. I am a Hawaii Voter since I became 18 years of age. I just want to get to the point of my testimony. I am in opposition of this bill. I have a hard time understanding how you as legislators could bring up a bill that has already been settled and bring it up again (1998) Also I have a hard time in processing forcing upon our pastors to marrying same sex when they know and I know its unrighteous. I have done my homework regarding same sex divorcee have you done yours are you helping the process or making it worse?

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From: kevin charles
To: JDLTestimony
Subject: Religious organizations and facilities
Date: Friday, October 25, 2013 7:35:40 PM

Dear Senator,

My name is Kevin Charles and I reside at 73-1202 Hamo ST in Kailua Kona, Hawaii.

I am writing you to ask that you amend the Marriage Equality Bill. Specifically **section 572-G Religious organizations and facilities; liability exemption under certain circumstances** lines 6-10, that would require churches that are open to the public to perform same sex marriages. My church regularly host community events and is open to all the public. We welcome people from all walks of life. We ask that you respect our right not to solemnize a particular marriage based on our religious conscience. If this law is passed, as written you are forcing us to shut out the community and to practice our religion under ground. I know this can't be what you attend to accomplish with this bill.

I appreciate your help and ask that you please send me a response letting me know if you are able to pass a Bill that would preserve our nations great history of religious freedom as well as address the marriage equality issue. I believe you can pass a bill that will accomplish marriage equality without eroding our religious freedoms.

Thank you for your time and considering my request.

Sincerely,

Kevin Charles

From:	Neena Charles
To:	JUDSStestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov; JDLTestimony
Subject:	Freedom of Religion
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 8:38:16 PM

Dear Senator,

Please protect our First Amendment rights.

Thank you,
Neena Charles

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: randallokimoto@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2013 10:31:38 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/27/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Randall Okimoto	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Randall & Melanie Okimoto 1423 Ahiahi Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96817 October 27, 2013 To: Clayton Hee, Chairman Re: Opposition of SB 1 Dear Honorable Chairman Hee and members of the committee, We are a family in Christ and we do not believe in this bill being called to hearing. We love and accept all people the way they are, but we also believe that sex between two people of the same gender is a sin. We are both proud educators in the public school system. We believe it will affect education and the curriculum we teach. Honestly, right now in our personal curriculum we do not teach about the specific topic of "marriage" and that it SHOULD be between a man and a woman; however, with this new bill, if it passes, we feel that we may be FORCED to teach that marriage can be between people of the same gender. Is that what we want our children to learn? Don't get us wrong, we should and are teaching our children to love and accept others for who they are but we shouldn't have to teach tolerance of sinful behavior, which we believe is sex between two or more people of the same gender, just like premarital sex and incest. Our first amendment right of freedom of religion is in direct conflict with this new law. If we refuse to perform any service because of the sexual sin (that we believe is a sin) then we would be thought of as discriminating. That is NOT what we believe! The institution of "marriage" is reserved for the sacredness of sex between a man and a woman. In the Bible, Genesis 1:26-28, God created human beings in His image, a man and a woman. He blessed them and said, " Be fruitful and multiply", which means to have many babies, thus the sacredness of marriage between A MAN AND A WOMAN. In 1998, the people of Hawaii decided to define marriage as between "a man and a woman", and this should be upheld today. When we vote our Senators and Representatives into office, we do so with the belief that they will do their jobs with our (those that voted them in) best interests at heart. Please take this testimony and others like it into kind consideration. Let Hawaii know that you are working for THEM! Next Monday, the special session that the governor called will begin. Our tax-paying dollars will be spent for an issue (traditional marriage vs. same-sex marriage) that should be give more time and consideration. Words like equality, love, fairness, good for the economy, etc. have all been used to defend same-sex marriage; all these words used to persuade people (legislators) who have been given the authority to make decisions for the State of Hawaii. But what does the

Bible say? Mark 10:8, Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:5, and Ephesians 5:31 all point us toward traditional marriage. I emailed every Senator and Representative on this issue and voiced my stance and humbly asked them to vote no for same-sex marriage. Three people responded: Senators Mike Gabbard, Donna Mercado Kim, and Representative Mark Takai. Mike Gabbard and Donna Mercado Kim both said they will vote against same-sex marriage. Mark Takai said he was unsure, but I heard somewhere he would vote for same-sex marriage. Of all the legislators (77) only three responded and I emailed them about a month ago. Whatever happens I want to do my part in this fight against powers and principalities in a Jesus way. Please allow us to encourage you to do the same. Have a blessed day! Sincerely, Randall and Melanie Okimoto Sent from my iPad

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To:	JDLWebTestimony
Cc:	rochellek808@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date:	Friday, October 25, 2013 9:17:33 AM
Attachments:	I do not support same sex marriage.docx

SB1
Submitted on: 10/25/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Rochelle Kalaukoa	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I do not support same sex marriage

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: JDLWebTestimony
Cc: mccormickrt@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM (Written Only)
Date: Thursday, October 24, 2013 9:54:18 AM

SB1
Submitted on: 10/24/2013
Testimony for on Oct 28, 2013 10:30AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Tarryn	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: To Whom It May Concern: As a resident of Hawaii, having lived on both Oahu and currently the Big Island, I look to you, the State of Hawaii Legislature, to protect Marriage between a man and a woman. It is my hope that as Elected Officials of our state, you will remain irrevocably committed to strengthening traditional marriage between a man and a woman, which for thousands of years has proven to be the best environment for nurturing children. For thousands of years, regardless of nationality or religious beliefs, society has depended upon the Family Unit and marriage between a man and a woman. As leaders of our state, and our country, Please help maintain and strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society. Sincerely, T. McCormick

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Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a concerned resident of Hawaii, I am submitting testimony against this Special Session and against the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage.

We voted for a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples. It would only be fair to let the people to vote again if we want to re-define marriage at this time.

In addition, we have seen that when sexual orientation has been elevated to special rights, the Constitutional first amendment rights (religion and speech) of citizens have been lost. That is truly "unequal" and should not be allowed to happen in our State.

I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process over a several day period for such an important matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

(Signature)

(Printed name) Christopher McKaskle

(Zip code) 96821

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

(Signature)

(Printed name) Rodney Bob

(Zip code) 96817

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Almi Bobo

(Signature)

(Printed name) Almi Bobo

(Zip code) 96817

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Kathryn Anne Dausey

(Signature)

(Printed name) Kathryn Anne Dausey

(Zip code) 96734

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

(Signature)

(Printed name) William Camacho

(Zip code) 96795

Clayton Hee, Chair *10/28/2013*

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

(Signature)

(Printed name) Andrew Pecoso

(Zip code) 96824

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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In addition, we have seen that when sexual orientation has been elevated to special rights, the Constitutional first amendment rights (religion and speech) of citizens have been lost. That is truly "unequal" and should not be allowed to happen in our State.

I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process over a several day period for such an important matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

(Signature) Jayce Akiona

(Printed name) Jayce Akiona

(Zip code) 96819

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a concerned resident of Hawaii, I am submitting testimony against this Special Session and against the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage.

We voted for a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples. It would only be fair to let the people to vote again if we want to re-define marriage at this time.

The union of one man and one woman has a unique characteristic in that it can produce biologically related children to both members of the marriage. No other relationship is "equal". Changing the definition only muddles the clarity that already exists. Other arrangements have been accommodated in our civil union and reciprocal beneficiary laws.

I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process over a several day period for such an important matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

(Signature) Sophia Sanchez

(Printed name) Sophia Sanchez

(Zip code) 96817

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process over a several day period for such an important matter.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

K. Jeff Cochn
(Signature)

(Printed name) K Jeff Cochn

(Zip code) 96744

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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In addition, we have seen that when sexual orientation has been elevated to special rights, the Constitutional first amendment rights (religion and speech) of citizens have been lost. That is truly "unequal" and should not be allowed to happen in our State.

I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process over a several day period for such an important matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Giselle L Mahue

(Signature)

(Printed name) Giselle L. Mahue

(Zip code) 96795

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a concerned resident of Hawaii, I am submitting testimony against this Special Session and against the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage.

Same-sex marriage should not be passed in a special session because:

a. A five day special session is not enough time to discuss a controversial issue,

b. No amendments can be made to legislation as a result of severely limited public input,

c. Hawaii is the only state rushing into special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision. If the need was truly dire, then why hasn't the other 34 states that do not permit same-sex marriages done so?

d. A 'yes' vote during special session is a 'no 'vote to democracy because the voice of the people is NOT heard and vetted properly in a short special session, especially if that voice is "amend the bill".

Thank you for the opportunity to testify <u>against</u> this special session and <u>against</u> this bill.

Jeanette Templeman
(Signature)

(Printed name) Jeanette Templeman

(Zip code) 96817

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a concerned resident of Hawaii, I am submitting testimony against this Special Session and against the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage.

We voted for a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples. It would only be fair to let the people to vote again if we want to re-define marriage at this time.

In addition, we have seen that when sexual orientation has been elevated to special rights, the Constitutional first amendment rights (religion and speech) of citizens have been lost. That is truly "unequal" and should not be allowed to happen in our State.

I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process over a several day period for such an important matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Helena K Lee

(Signature)

(Printed name) Helena Lee

(Zip code) 96795

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a concerned resident of Hawaii, I am submitting testimony against this Special Session and against the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage.

We voted for a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples. It would only be fair to let the people to vote again if we want to re-define marriage at this time.

The governor's current bill will NOT protect church facilities (contrary to what he wants you to believe). If your church offers a public service (such as a preschool, a meeting place for community groups like a neighborhood board, Alcoholics Anonymous, etc.), by definition your church is a public accommodation and would be legally obligated to sanction a same-sex marriage if it were requested.

Further, I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process over a several day period for such an important matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

(Signature)
(Printed name) Florence Jane Agustin Tisng
(Zip code) 96797

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a concerned resident of Hawaii, I am submitting testimony against this Special Session and against the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage.

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In addition, we have seen that when sexual orientation has been elevated to special rights, the Constitutional first amendment rights (religion and speech) of citizens have been lost. That is truly "unequal" and should not be allowed to happen in our State.

I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process over a several day period for such an important matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Rachel Faufata

(Signature)

(Printed name) Rachel Faufata

(Zip code) 96744

Clayton Hee, Chair *10/28/2013*

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Isaac Tehero

(Signature)

(Printed name) ISAAC TEHERO

(Zip code) 96826

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process over a several day period for such an important matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Shannon Marocco

(Signature)

(Printed name) Shannon Marocco

(Zip code) 96825

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a concerned resident of Hawaii, I am submitting testimony against this Special Session and against the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage.

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(Signature)

(Printed name) Melani Akune

(Zip code) 96815

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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(Signature)

(Printed name) Joshua Marocco

(Zip code) 96825

Clayton Hee, Chair *10/28/2013*

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify <u>against</u> this special session and <u>against</u> this bill.

Blair Shirakata
(Signature)

(Printed name) Blair Shirakata

(Zip code) 96706

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
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(Signature)

(Printed name) James Allison

(Zip code) 96706

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Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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SPBeckett

(Signature)

(Printed name) Susan Beckett

(Zip code) 96816

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Robina Nalani Subiono

(Signature)

(Printed name) ROBINA NALANI SUBIONO

(Zip code) 96826

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a concerned resident of Hawaii, I am submitting testimony against this Special Session and against the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage.

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The governor's current bill will NOT protect church facilities (contrary to what he wants you to believe). If your church offers a public service (such as a preschool, a meeting place for community groups like a neighborhood board, Alcoholics Anonymous, etc.), by definition your church is a public accommodation and would be legally obligated to sanction a same-sex marriage if it were requested.

Further, I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process over a several day period for such an important matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify <u>against</u> this special session and <u>against</u> this bill.

(Signature)
(Printed name) YESIA DEL RIO
(Zip code) 96826

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

(Signature)

(Printed name) Jessanim Garcia

(Zip code) 96826

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

(Signature)

(Printed name) Hung Fang Gan

(Zip code) 96792

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

VMcKaskle

(Signature)

(Printed name) Victoria McKaskle

(Zip code) 96821

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

L Lloyd Saltzman

(Signature)

(Printed name) LLOYD SALTZMAN

(Zip code) 96819

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

As a concerned resident of Hawaii, I am submitting testimony against this Special Session and against the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage.

Same-sex marriage should not be passed in a special session because:

a. A five day special session is not enough time to discuss a controversial issue,

b. No amendments can be made to legislation as a result of severely limited public input,

c. Hawaii is the only state rushing into special session as a result of the Supreme Court decision. If the need was truly dire, then why hasn't the other 34 states that do not permit same-sex marriages done so?

d. A 'yes' vote during special session is a 'no 'vote to democracy because the voice of the people is NOT heard and vetted properly in a short special session, especially if that voice is "amend the bill".

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

(Signature) Sandra Ropoff

(Printed name) Sandra Ropoff

(Zip code) 96734

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

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(Signature)

(Printed name) Jose Cogorno

(Zip code) 96791

10/28/2013

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
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Legislators must respect fundamental democratic principles:

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(Signature)

(Printed name) Daniel Rocoff

(Zip code) 96734

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(Signature)

(Printed name) JUAN R. LOZA

(Zip code) 96717

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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(Signature)

(Printed name) Jordan Shimodai

(Zip code) 96701

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Donald LeRoy McNeely
(Signature)

(Printed name) DONALD LeRoy McNeely

(Zip code) 96821

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Antonette L. Luecke

(Signature)

(Printed name) Antonette L. Luecke

(Zip code) 96815

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Melissa J. Thurman

(Signature)

(Printed name) Melissa J. Thurman

(Zip code) 96706

10/28/2013

Clayton Hee, Chair
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Franklin R. Thurman

(Signature)

(Printed name) Frank Thurman

(Zip code) 96706

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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Elaine Brown

(Signature)

(Printed name) Elaine Brown

(Zip code) 96819

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013
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(Signature)
(Printed name) Anne Fujii
(Zip code) 96816

Clayton Hee, Chair *10/28/2013*

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
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(Signature)

(Printed name) STEPHANIE CAMACHO

(Zip code) 96795

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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We voted for a constitutional amendment in 1998 giving the legislature the power to limit marriage between opposite sex couples. It would only be fair to let the people to vote again if we want to re-define marriage at this time.

The union of one man and one woman has a unique characteristic in that it can produce biologically related children to both members of the marriage. No other relationship is "equal". Changing the definition only muddles the clarity that already exists. Other arrangements have been accommodated in our civil union and reciprocal beneficiary laws.

I oppose the special session because it rushes the legislative process over a several day period for such an important matter.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

Mosiana Riklon

(Signature)

(Printed name) Mosiana Riklon

(Zip code) 96818

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
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(Signature)

(Printed name) Terry G. Tisna

(Zip code) 96821

10/28/2013

Clayton Hee, Chair
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(Signature)

(Printed name) DYLAN ANDERSON

(Zip code) 96821

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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(Signature)

(Printed name) Xian Xing Huang

(Zip code) 96792

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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John K Subiono

(Signature)

(Printed name) John K Subiono

(Zip code) 96826

Clayton Hee, Chair 10/28/2013

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.

(Signature)

(Printed name) Charmion Kanet

(Zip code) 96839

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Jackie Montano
Name

1538 Nokuia St
Address

Wahiawa HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage. (Morales)

Sincerely,

Name

95-672 Alokiam St

Address

Mililani HI 96792

City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

(Morales)

Name

6047 Kuwaiwai Lu #604

Address

Honolulu HI 96817

City, State, Zip

Dear SENATOR CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

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Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

(ISRAEL MORO)
Name

2781 LAKEVIEW CIRCLE
Address

WAHIAWA HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

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Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely, Sen Clayton Hee (Faustino Nacapuy)

FAUSTINO N NACAPUY
Name

45 LAUOHE LOOP
Address

WAHIAWA, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

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Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Rose Marie Nakamizo
Name

1566 Ennis St.
Address

Wahiawa, Hi 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Clayton Hee, Senator

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Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

(Navares)

Anita Navares

Name

216 Rose St

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Jaylene Navares

Name

216 Rose St

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Tess Nakamishi

Name

68 Kahuhea St

Address

Wahiawa HI 96785

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

ARACELY NAVARRO

Name

1122-A AHE-AHE AVE.

Address

WAHIAWA, HI. 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Terry Navarro

Name

1170 A Kee-Ke Ave

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Fred W. Obawa

Name

124 Kuahiwi Ave.

Address

Wahiawa Hi. 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Colleen Okashige Colleen Okashige

Name

95-258 Waipoo St.

Address

Mililani, HI 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Donald J.R. Okashige

Name

95-258 Waipio St.

Address

Mililani, HI 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Donald Okashige

Name

95-258 Waipoo St

Address

Mililani, HI 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee:

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline M. O'Reilly

Name

23 Leilehua Rd.

Address

Wahiawa HI. 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Virginia M. Pablan

Name

275 Mala St.

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Jennita D. Pacheco

Name

1399 C California Ave.

Address

Wahiawa, Hi. 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Name Venefrida Pacleb

Name

same as above. 232 Walker Ave.

Address

Wahiawa, Hi. 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Robert Paglinawan

Name

226 A Olive Ave

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

ALFREDO J. PALMA

Name

2206 California AVE #G

Address

WAHIAWA HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Rose Marie Pambid
Name

724 Ihi Ihi Avenue
Address

Wahiawa HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Delphine Parayno

Name

PO Box 893999

Address

Mililani HI 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Ray Parayno

Name

PO Box 893999

Address

Mililani, HI 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Annette A. Pascual

Name

Ce Halakahiki Place

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee,

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Vilma R. Penuliar

Name

644 Olive Avenue

Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

REMIGIO PIANO

Name

60 LAHONE ROAD

Address

WAHIAWA, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

ZOSIMO QUEMADO

Name

220 Nichols St

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

BERNARDO G. QUIDEZ

Name

133 MOAE PLACE

Address

WAHIAWA HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

EMI QUIDEZ

Name

133 MOAE PL

Address

WAHI 96794

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Shawn Quillin
Name

PO Box 816430
Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Azucena M. Ramirez

Name

10 1 Ulunene St.

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

RANDY RAMONES

Name

87-875 KULAUKU ST.

Address

WAIANAE, HI 96792

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Helen Ra

Name

283 Mala St

Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Shirley Ruppuccino
Name

683 Kikowaena St.
Address

Wahiawa, Hi 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear HONORABLE SEN. CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

JOANIE RIDDLE

Name

1207 AUWAI DR.

Address

WAHIAWA, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Kathy Rilvena

Name

132 moae PL.

Address

Wahiawa, Hi 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Shirley Rivera

Name

298 Wilikina Dr.

Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

(Juan Rojo)

Sincerely,

Juan Rojo

Name

95-1143 Koolani Dr 1b

Address

Mililani Hi 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

MELVIN RELABUKO
Name

610 KANIAHE ST.
Address

WAHIAWA, HAWAII 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Salome Ruaburo

Name

610 Kamiahe St.

Address

Wahiawa, Hi. 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Pauline Saddler

Name

94-117 Hokualii Ct #109

Address

Mililani HI 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear Honorable Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Anita Sasaki ANITA SASAKI
Name

94-245 KIKIULA LOOP
Address

Mililani 96789
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Erlinda V. Sayson

Name

1975 B Alai PL

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear CLAYTON HEE,

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

DAVID SCOTT
Name

256-102 KAMBERS CT
Address

WAHIAWA, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Densano

Name

1324 Loko Dr.

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Shounk

Name

166 Kilea Pl.

Address

Wahiawa, Hi 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SENATOR CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Vera Griffen

Name

95-1147 Makaikai St. #71

Address

Mililani HI 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton thee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Wayne Swiford

Name

95 1147 Makaki Kai St #71

Address

Mililani HI 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. Clayton HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Diane C Soares

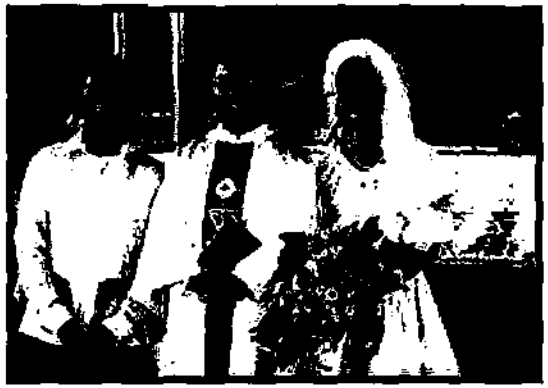
Name

Diane C Soares

Address

Wahiawa, Hi 96786

City, State, Zip



Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Frances Soares
Name

1042 Ehoeho Ave. #221
Address

Wahiawa, Hi 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

(Doris Sojot)

Doris Sojot
Name

278 ILIWAI DR
Address

WAHIAWA, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

(Reggie Sojot)

Sincerely,

Reggie Sojot

Name

278 Ikiwai Drive

Address

Wahi, Hi. 96792

City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Emmylou E. Serrantes
Name

5006 Surigao Lane
Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Alberta Young
Name

1804 Earner St.
Address

Wahiawa 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Eliza Sugon

Name

93 Kaluhea St

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Clayton Hee,

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lisa Rogerson

Name

1207 Auwai Dr.

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

(Tagudin)

Name

1207 Auwai Dr.

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Julibeth Tamashiro

Name

95-1125 Koolani Dr. #176

Address

Mililani, Hawaii 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Shirley P. Taylor

Name

1888 Lauta Pl

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SENATOR CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Robert Teixeira
Name

015 Neal Ave.
Address

Wahiawa, HI - 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

JULIUS TOLENTINO JR.
Name

P.O. BOX 861536
Address

WAHIAWA, HI. 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Christian Valentino-Calma

Name

Hlapala St. 944-14

Address

Mililani HI 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA TUPOLIO PA'O TUPOLIO

Name

P.O BOX 861125

Address

WAHIAWA HAWAII 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely, [redacted]

Dolores Uclusin

Name

880 Uakanikoo St.

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Sen.
Dear Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Wilma Uchusin
Name

880 Uakanikoo St.
Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Jovita A. Ungos
Name

1236 Auwai Drive
Address

Wahiawa, Hi. 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

(Primo Lingos)

Primo Lingos

Name

1236 Anani Drive

Address

Kahuku, HI 96728

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Benita R. Valdez

Name

1241 Neal Avenue

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. CLAYTON LEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY VALDEZ
Name

1241 NEAL AVE.
Address

WAHIAWA HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee,

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Janice Vautta

Name

175 Kaliko Dr.

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee,

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Wayson J. Vannatta Jr.

Name

175 Kaliko Dr.

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Juanita B. Valdez
Name

1031 Whitmore Wahiawa
Address

Hn. Hawaii 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Jeanette L. Vardo

Name

484 ILIWAI DR

Address

WAH, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Andrew Velasco
Name

62 Hoomaha St.
Address

Wahiawa, 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely, (Max R. Velasco, Jr.)

Max R. Velasco Jr.
Name

62 Hoomaha St.
Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786
City, State, Zip

t

n.

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Vellalo
Name

123 Plum St.
Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Barbara T. Walker
Name

127 Makaua Ave.
Address

Wahiawa, Hi. 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Cindy Yen
Name

108 Wakonikoo Place
Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Mark Yen

Name

108 Uakanikoo Place

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. CLAYTON HEE,

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at

RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

MALCOLM ZARA

Name

94-245 LEOWAHINE ST., APT. A106

Address

WAIPAHU, HI 96797

City, State, Zip

JESUS CHRIST GATHERING HIS PEOPLE MINISTRY
Pastor George K. Piliwale
98-1277 Kaahumanu Street PP125
Aiea, Hi, 96701
Cell 561-7847
E-mail; Nobodyisinheaven@yahoo.com

To Whom It May Concern:

Subject: Homosexual Marriage Special Session
Hawaii State Legislature 2013

Notice of objection to this special session is now given:

Title for this writing: JESUS PURGE THE CHURCH

Scripture for this writing: CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE Matt. 21:12-13

From: Pastor George K. Piliwale and Beatrice M. Piliwale

Let it now be known. The reading of this statement will obligate the reader to act, because of having been provided the knowledge and understanding that homosexual marriage is not blessed by Jesus nor approved by God, but is totally of this world, and that all those who participate in this ungodly union, which is considered an abomination, and the reader who fails to act, shall be considered enemies of God (James 4:4).

Also, if there come any unto you having not the doctrine of Christ, receive him not into your home, neither bid him Godspeed: For him that biddeth him Godspeed is partaker of his evil deeds (2 John 9-11). And, the percentage of those actually saved are few, compared to those many who are called to receive Jesus as Lord, (Matt. 20:16, 22:14) and God's Word shall not be tampered with (Rev. 22:18-18).

At the conclusion of this letter it will become clear our failure to please God shall deny to us the salvation we sought to keep and this abundant United States shall become the great Sodom and shall perish as did Sodom, as it were in days of old (Gen. 19:4-29) and will be in days yet to come as Babylon fallen (Rev.18:1-24).

In this present time of the end, Jesus Christ is now purging his church in order to bring it forth having no spot nor blemish to present to the Father which is in Heaven. This pruning or purging of the church involves the removal of all unbelievers and all homosexuals. This includes those to-be-disappointed make-believe Christians who claim to be "once saved, always saved" and who have not repented of that doctrine. This adjustment is slowly but surely coming to its end with the advent of Jesus and the end of the world. May the Lord have mercy on us.

THE REAL THREAT OF HOMOSEXUALITY is hidden under a mask of equal rights, constitutional rights, employment opportunities, home ownership, and adoption of heterosexual children by homosexuals (to convert into the homosexual population), with the ultimate goal of the domination of the heterosexual world as a whole. Impossible? Do not count on that! (I am willing to bet that those in Sodom gave consideration to this same conclusion before they were enfolded into the deadly sin of homosexuality.

In 1948, as a 12-year-old beach boy, I and my friend were confronted by a 45-year-old male as we stood in line to buy lunch after a morning of swimming and surfing. He graciously offered to make us lunch and we both accepted. After we were finished eating, he wasted no time in bringing up the subject of sex, and unzipped his shorts. He exposed his penis while stroking it and said, "Only men can satisfy men." (I don't mind telling you this was the filthiest, ugliest, and most disgusting display I ever had the displeasure of seeing.) Needless to say, as the homosexual continued to play with himself, my friend and I left quickly.

In 1986, a gathering at Hamburger Mary's, a homosexual club in Waikiki not in existence today, celebrated a ten-year infusion of decadence into the population of the state of Hawaii that had begun in 1976. That ten-year journey had proven to be successful.

The success of this moral degradation by heterosexuals encouraged homosexuals to continue this activity of evil with the goal of bringing heterosexuals to their knees by submitting to the whims of homosexuality, as did the population of Sodom in the days of old.

In 1994, Act 217, *Relating to Marriage*, was introduced in the Hawaii State Legislature and, with the consensus of 71% of the public approving the definition of one man and one woman in marriage, was passed as HB/SB 2312 and enacted, thus temporarily preserving the sanctity of heterosexual marriage. Praise the Lord!

Homosexuals took the offensive in 2008 by claiming that many people had changed their minds. Even though in an unofficial poll, 61% of the Hawaii population still objected to civil unions, Christian leaders failed to capitalize on that fact and, by definition, gave the higher ground away to the homosexuals. Although a Christian "Red Shirt Rally" at about this time created a rumble of Christian support, one of its influential leaders pushed for compromise because he had a homosexual son. For his son's sake, this leader's resolve caved in and could not stand against evil. Because of his weakness, he and others like him fell to this evil and brought low the name of Jesus. That was the end of the Christian surge and now, five years later, homosexual efforts may be realized with the special session of the legislature to be convened October 28 in order to establish a law allowing the so-called marriage of homosexuals and their rights to all the benefits thereof.

There is no doubt that the rights of heterosexuals will be affected adversely if homosexuals prevail above all that is righteous. If this does comes to pass, they will think they have won it all, but in reality they have prepared the ground for their <u>eternal</u> damnation, for this victory will have come about against the will of God and his only begotten Jesus Christ. God has already judged them by their fruits (Matt. 7:15-20) and has given them up to a reprobate mind (Rom. 1:28).

Hawaii State Legislators—you will be facing a critical choice on October 28, 2013. To assist you in your momentous choice, the following are a few specific examples of misleading words, phrases, and statements used by homosexuals to deceive those who are

willing to listen to them--to create a symphony of lies that will generate the greatest amount of pity and sympathy in their favor. They do this to make the consenting public tolerant of their evil, to make the consenting public an active part of their evil (2 John 9-11), and to make the consenting public share in their suffering of damnation, as they will, for their evil:

> RAINBOW: As a covenant between God and Noah, a heterosexual. It is clear in Gen. 9:8-17 that God, not homosexuals, created and owns the rainbow. Homosexuals claim this ownership.
> HOMOSEXUAL: Involving sexual intercourse between persons of the same sex, which is an abomination before God. Other names identifying homosexuals are "fagot," "queer," "fairy," "mahu," and "gay." God will never ordain this false marriage. Believe it.
> GAY: A softer less threatening identification of a person living a perverted and evil homosexual life style. In other words, a wolf in sheep's clothing (Matt. 10-16).
> BIGOT: A person who is utterly intolerant of any different creed, belief, or opinion. Homosexuals are bigots for the evils of homosexuality. Heterosexuals are bigots, but in Jesus' name for righteousness. Their attempts to intimidate heterosexuals by calling them bigots were formerly successful. But, not any longer.
> TOLERANT: To have sympathy for, and be a part of, homosexuality. The word of God in the Bible forbids us from tolerating homosexuality.

JESUS IS NOW PURGING THE CHURCH--a continues activity until the end is come. God has allowed this discrepancy concerning homosexual marriage to come into existence for the betterment of those of his children who may still be in a state of uncertainty but have not yet fallen. Homosexuality is a key ingredient, believe it or not, of energizing Christians to set their sights on Jesus, for without Jesus they can do nothing (John 15:5) and without the protection of Jesus, we all will fail. But listen now, those who rebel against the kingdom and who occupy a position of worldly power: The Lord hast not sent you to attempt to destroy the sacred precepts of marriage, but to enforce its righteousness and sustain the one-man-and-one-woman concept that is likened to when we say yea, yea, and nay, nay (Matt. 5:37). For whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil; in marriage, if it be one man and another man or one woman and another woman, is more than commanded by God; these cometh of evil.

Therefore, Legislators, your obligation is clear: do not allow this shameful unity of homosexuals under law but stand on HB and SB 2312, *Relating to Marriage*, enacted in 1994, that is <u>still in force</u>. I have shown you the moral threat homosexuals pose for us, our children, and our grandchildren. I have proven homosexuals lied about the rainbow and about being bigots and intolerant--all that they accused us of being. I have presented irrevocable evidence that the homosexual view of equal rights is a sham, since homosexuals are really interested in the total domination of heterosexual society and the children they acquire from that society.

You, as a Christian, are the temple of God and represent Jesus Christ. You are the light of the world that cannot be hidden but must be seen by all. Amen

May Jesus bless all that is written: Pastor George Piliwale & Beatrice M. Piliwale

George & Bea Piliwale

October 24, 2013

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee
Chairman, Committee of the Judiciary
and Labor

Renee Iwamura
1212 Nuuanu Avenue Suite 3804
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Position: Opposed Special Session Same Sex Marriage

My Testimony is as follows:
I am really concerned about the special session on same sex marriage because I feel it does not respect the Democratic process. There seems to be undue pressure on this bill to make it into law without public hearings that take into account social, cultural, and traditional impacts that can create dramatic and detrimental outcomes to the people and to the keikis of Hawaii for generations to come.

The most important issue of our times have not been heard by a new generation of people and it is being coerced thru with out public hearings where the language of the bill can be adequately reviewed and testified on. This strips us of our basic rights to be

heard and our rights to speak which becomes unconstitutional in many respects. The legislature has taken on a disposable attitude of short cuts and outcomes that is not what Democracy is about. Is this the model of decision making we can expect in the future? It casts a shadow of doubt and breaks down bridges of trust and transparency that you represent the people of Hawaii well.

My hope is that this special session will be terminated and be ushered to regular session where the Democratic process can take place for the people of Hawaii.

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

RE: Bill #SB1

Hearing: Monday, October 28, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Auditorium of the State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

This is an amended copy to replace my original testimony submitted on October 23, 2013

My name is Teresa Shuptrine. I was born and raised in Hawaii all my life. My ancestry is Hawaiian, Chinese, and Caucasian.

I would like to offer my opposition to SB1, Relating to Equal Rights.

I lived the homosexual life at least twenty five (25) years. My father was a Navy man and was out to sea about six months to a year at a time. My mother was ill with severe rheumatoid arthritis and spent most of her time in her room. My older brother cared for me. As I was growing up, my dad and brother were my role models.

I became attracted to females at a very young age. It troubled me and caused me great torment throughout my life. I was brought up a devout Catholic and was unable to discuss this matter with anyone. I lived the closet life as I felt so ashamed, humiliated and condemned. It was a life in bondage with no peace. I prayed constantly to be changed with no avail. Many of my gay guy friends died due to aids.

At this time of life I continued to question my identity. The unnatural became so natural and the natural felt so unnatural. I believed I was born this way. I later felt that this was my cross to bear in life.

With the grace of God I was able to change. I have been set free for about 20 years now. The Lord revealed to me that I was always looking for a mother's love. I also realize that being a lesbian was a choice and I was not born this way.

In closing, the reason I oppose gay marriage is because I strongly believe in traditional marriage and family values. My foundation in life is JESUS and HIS LOVE.

I ask you what is more important, pleasing man or pleasing God?

Re. Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality October 24, 2013

Good Morning, Chairman Senator Hee and Senate committee members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee,

My name is Trudy T. Tadaki a 46 year old registered voter residing at 94-981 Awamoku place Waipahu, HI 96797. I am also a direct support staff supporting people with disabilities.

I am <u>opposed</u> to the Special session and any legislation that supports Same-sex marriage.

Thank you for your consideration

Trudy T. Tadaki Trudy T. Tadaki
94-981 Awamoku Place
Waipahu, HI 96797

Email: trudy-t26@yahoo.com
Password: MyVote-NO!

GRACE ALARCIO

Testimony For SB1
Monday 10/28/13

October 25, 2013

Aloha,

First of all, thank you for serving our great State, "Hawaii".

My name is Grace Alarcio and I am a resident of the State of Hawaii. [redacted] I ask that you would vote NO on the Same Sex Marriage Bill. We have a right as a citizen of Hawaii and of the United States of America to raise our children and the generations to come, that marriage is only between one man and one woman. It is not fair that the representatives are given the privilege to decide, the people of Hawaii should be given the right to vote.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter.

Mahalo,

Grace Alarcio

Grace Alarcio

~~Leonardo Alarcio~~

I will be at the hearing, in person - on Monday. 10/28/13

Grace Alarcio
91-1156 HoOmahana St.
Ewa Beach

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

CHAIRMAN SENATOR CLAYTON HEE,
JUDICIARY & LABOR COMMITTEE

ALOHA,

MY NAME IS VAUGHN MIYAUCHI. I HAVE LIVED IN HAWAI 64 YEARS AND I AM A REGISTERED VOTER. I AM OPPOSED TO SAME SEX MARRIAGE, AND I AM AGAINST A SPECIAL SESSION THAT IS RUSHED WITHOUT GIVING THE VOTERS TIME TO UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES.

MAHALO,

VAUGHN MIYAUCHI
EMAIL: VMIYAUCHI@CS.COM
PASSWORD: HERE I AM

ADDRESS:
98-1697 KIAWE ST.
AIEA, HAWAII 96701

Oct. 24, 2013

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

To: Chairman Senator Clayton Hee

Subject: Written Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha Senator Hee.

My name is Merle Miyauchi, a 64 year old registered voter residing at 98-1697 Kiawe St., Aiea, HI 96701.

I am opposed to Same Sex Marriage and urge you to vote NO on this bill. Why are we rushing an issue of this importance by a special session? I feel the people should, ~~have~~ be able to give ~~their~~ input and ~~be heard~~ vote on this matter.

Thank you.

Merle Miyauchi
98-1697 Kiawe St
Aiea, HI 96701
email: miyauchi@hawaii.edu
password: hallelujah

Good morning, Chairman [illegible]
and Senate Members [illegible]
[illegible]

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating Equality
[illegible]
[illegible] PLATA [illegible]

[illegible] same

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

10/24/13 Re: Testimony in opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

To Chairman Hee:

My name is Dannalei Baba, I'm a 55 year old part Hawaiian, registered voter residing at 98-535 Kaamile St, Aiea, HI 96701.

I am opposed to any legislation that allows same sex marriage. And I cannot understand why Hawaii is rushing into a special session as a result of the Supreme Court decisions, especially since the other 34 states are not.

I thank you for your services.

Respectfully submitted,
Dannalei Baba

Name: Dannalei Baba
email: keiki-elua@hawaii.rr.com
password: voicenso

Relating to Equality

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 10/23/2013

Aloha! Chairman Clayton Hee and Senate Committee members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee, Chairman Karl Rhoads and Sylvia Luke,

My name is Dale Stevens, I am 53 years of age and resite on the Windward side at 47-097A Kamehameha Hwy, Kaneohe HI 96744.

I would like to thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony opposing this legislation and also to take this opportunity to thank you for your service in serving the People of Hawaii

With that said, I believe we the people of Hawaii should be allowed to vote on this issue and strongly oppose to the "Special Session".

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Stevens
47-097 A Kamehameha Hwy
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Hawaiian heritage and uniqueness as an island State, dedicate our efforts to fulfill the philosophy decreed by the Hawaii State motto, "Ua mau ke ea o Ka aina i Ka pono."

Thank you for allowing me to briefly state my position. It is wonderful to participate in our legislative process.

Mahalo,

Leila I. Lee
5233 Keikilani Cir
Hon, HI 96821

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN CLAYTON HEE AND SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY AND LABOR COMMITTEE,

Chairmen Karl Rhoads and Sylvia Luke,

MY NAME IS BARON LEE AND LIVE IN THE AINA HAINA DISTRICT. I AM A FATHER OF FIVE ADULT CHILDREN AND CURRENTLY A GRANDFATHER OF THREE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND HARD WORK TO OUR COMMUNITY. AND THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ MY WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY OPPOSITION TO THIS SPECIAL SESSION BECAUSE IT DENIES THE PEOPLE THEIR RIGHTS TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. SETTING THIS TYPE OF PRECEDENCE CONCERNS ME FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR HOMELAND. THERE MAY BE NO STOPPING OF "SPECIAL SESSIONS" FOR ISSUES THAT WOULD IMPACT EVERY RESIDENT YET, SHOULD ALLOW FOR ALL VOTING CITIZENS TO HAVE INPUT.

I STRONGLY URGE AND ASK YOU TO RECONSIDER SUSPENDING THIS SPECIAL SESSION.

RESPECTFULLY,
BARON LEE

Oct. 24, 2013

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN CLAYTON HEE AND SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY AN LABOR COMMITTEE, Chairmen Karl Rhoads and Sylvia Luke,

MY NAME IS JOAN O'HARA, A 70 YEAR OLD VOTER RESIDING AT 800 THIRD ST., PEARL CITY, HAWAII.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO SUBMIT MY WRITTEN TESTIMONY OPPOSING THIS SPECIAL SESSION.

IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THIS 5 DAY SPECIAL SESSION IS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO DISCUSS THIS MOST CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE OF SAME SEX MARRIAGE, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION IS ONLY TWO MONTHS AWAY.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ASK YOU TO PLEASE ALLOW THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII TO VOTE ON THIS ISSUE, AS THIS ISSUE AFFECTS US ALL.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Joan O'Hara

October 23, 2013

Re. Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

Dear Chairman Clayton Hee and
Senate Committee members of
the Judiciary and Labor committee:
Chairmen Karl Rhoads and Sylvia Luke,

My name is Betty Sasaki. I'm a 71 year old registered voter who resides in Salt Lake, Honolulu, Hawaii.

I appreciate and thank you all for your diligent service to the people of Hawaii.

I would like to urge you to cancel this Special Session to address Same Sex Marriage because:

1) it does not give adequate time for amendments to be proposed, discussed, and voted on;
2) it does not give enough time for the people to give their testimonies and express their wishes and desires;
3) this bill can be satisfactorily proposed, discussed, amended, and put to vote in the regular session which is <u>only</u> a few months away.

Thank you for considering my request!

Aloha, Betty Sasaki
2950 Ala Lima St, Apt 803
H.H. HI 96818

Chairman Clayton Hee & Senate Committee
Members of the Judiciary & Labor Committee:
Chairman Karl Rhoads and Suzuka Luke,
My name is Chris Tanigawa, age 64, residing
at 3775 Kilauea Avenue, Honolulu, 96816.
Thank you for allowing me to submit my written
testimony opposing same sex marriage.
May our legislators continue to uphold the
Hawaiian Preamble and the Constitution of
the United States.

From my heart, [signature]

Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB1, Relating to Equality
My name is Jane Shiroma, I'm 76 + a registered voter
My address is 1475 Oniipa St, Honolulu 96819

To Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Representatives Karl Rhoads and Sylvia Luke,

I am asking you to please vote NO to the Same-Sex Marriage Bill. I strongly believe that there should be researches as to the results of states or countries where SSM has been legalized. We are opening "Pandora's Box" but rushing this bill without knowledge of its consequence.

Firstly I strongly believe that we should follow the democratic procedure to let all people have a voice in this matter.

Thank you for the awesome work you do for it is a great responsibility. Your work determines the destination of our state + the voice of all our people.

Sincerely,

Jane Shiroma
1475 Oniipa St.
Honolulu, Hi 96819
email janedssh@gmail.com

To: Senate Clyde Hee, Rep. Carl Rhoads

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

Subject: Same Sex Marriage legislation

My name is Edward S. Shiroma, a registered Voter since 1962.
I firmly believe that this bill should not be passed
untill all consequences that will affect generations to come
~~are conducted~~. are clarified & resolved, & understood with participation
~~the~~ ~~tenants~~ of all Voters. Thank you for your consideration

Edward S Shiroma
1475 Onipaa St
Honolulu, HI 96819

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

October 24, 2013

Aloha & Good morning Chairman Clayton Hee & Senate Committee members of the Hawaii Judiciary & Labor Committee, Chairmen Karl Rhoads and Sylvia Luke,

As a resident & a 70 year old voter in the Aiea, Halawa, Newtown district, living at 98-1704 Kiawe St (Newtown Estates) Aiea, my name is Angela C. Ho. Mahalo, thank you for accepting this written testimony opposing the proposed legislation. I'm grateful & thank my Lord Jesus for your service to us, Hawaii's Ohana.

As a retired Hawaii school Counselor and Teacher for over 30 years, I have a deep, loving concern for our children & future generations. I've taught & hopefully modeled the values of respect & integrity within our democratic society. As an educator-leader in schools & still working as a substitute & volunteer, I know the importance of speaking truth, having a clean conscience & serving others.

Please do not support a special session since more deliberate analysis & consideration are paramount to clearer decisions & more wisdom. True democracy is mocked when there's a "rush" in a most controversial issue. Your constituents' voices cannot be effectively heard in a short 5-day special session. I believe we, Hawaii's people, addressed this issue in 1998 & should be consulted again.

I thank you again for allowing me to "voice" my heart's concerns. Mahalo.

Respectfully submitted, Angela C. Ho

Re: Testimony in opposition to SB1. Relating Equality

Good morning Chairman Clayton Hee and Senate Committee members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee

Chairmen Karl Rhoads and Sylvia Luke,

My name is Dorothy Akamine, a 73 year old voter residing at 98-1745 Hapaki St., Aiea, Hi. 96701. I want to thank you for allowing me to submit my written testimony opposing this legislation. A five day session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time. A "yes" vote during special session is a "no" vote to democracy because the voice of the people is not being heard. I strongly urge that this issue be placed on the ballot next election. I recommend as a concerned citizen and registered voter, to suspend the special session.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Akamine

24 October 2013

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality

Aloha Chairman Hee and esteemed members of the Judiciary and Labor Committee, Chairmen Karl Rhoads and Sylvia Luke,

My name is Leila Ikemoto Lee. I am a small business owner, a mother, and a grandmothe which is why I am writing today for a sense of urgency.

I am humbly asking our elected officials to delay the special session until a regular session, so enough information can be disseminated and heard about the same-sex marriage bill. A lot has been heard and said about civil unions, but not nearly enough on same-sex marriage.

I am also wary about this bill as to its effect on religious liberties and how it may affect my convictions as it relates to my business.

Lastly, as a grandmother, I wish to see my precious grandchildren grow in a place where their religious beliefs are protected and are fostered and are free to grow. This is the legacy I wish to leave them — a land where King Kamehameha III proclaimed, "We the people of Hawaii, grateful for Divine Guidance, and mindful of our

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Dear Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Mahalo for your time in hearing out a very concerned citizen. Not only am I concerned as a citizen for the health and welfare of our beloved Hawaii, but also concerned as a husband, a father, a pastor, and a member of the School Community Council at Kainalu Elementary in Kailua. I know you have a heart for our state and our keiki as well, which is why I have attached for you the article entitled "This School Welcomes You" (Best practices for creating an LGBT-inclusive school climate) from the national magazine Teaching Tolerance, which was sent to Kainalu El (and likely all of our DOE schools) a few weeks ago.

I appreciate your hearing me out without any pre-conceived notions. In order to assist in this, I would like to be very clear from the get go. I believe there should be NO bullying in schools or communities against ANY individuals. I believe that every individual deserves respect, dignity, protection, and love. I know that we will always have homosexuals in our schools and our communities. I personally have seven friends who identify themselves as homosexuals, and I love them, bless them, befriend them, support them, pray for and with them, and enjoy their friendship.

I also would like to apologize for any individual Christian or Christian church or organization who has personally attacked you (or other legislators) or who have used harsh words or harsh tones. I apologize as some may not have shown you what Jesus is like, especially in His love for you. I ask for your forgiveness for all of these.

I hope to convey to you that it is very possible to love the LGBT community and still vote 'no' on the Marriage Equality Bill.

Now, to my concerns and the reason I wanted you to look at the article.
1. This article is focused exclusively on inclusion of LGBT and for addressing anti-bullying of LGBT. "Anti-bullying" seems to be becoming more and more synonymous with "Do not bully members of the LGBT community" rather than "Bullying anyone is wrong." As I said above, bullying should absolutely not be tolerated because every student should be respected and dignified. And that's my point, EVERY student. Seems things have become disproportionately out of balance toward LGBT and we should ask why? What's driving this? Who is driving this? What are the goals and motivation underneath it? These are questions that ought to be thoroughly examined BEFORE voting on a bill that will have direct and indirect impact on education, churches, businesses, and society in general and religious freedoms of individuals.

2. The article is promoting inclusion and tolerance of LGBT. Yes, it's true, all students should be included and have tolerance given them. However, this article is the beginning stages of goals that go far beyond inclusion and tolerance. The larger goal has to do with promotion and even celebration of LGBT lifestyles. How can I say this? We simply need to look at what is happening in the public schools of countries and states that have legalized

SSM before us. They are 10-15 years ahead of us. It only makes sense that we take the time to study this issue and its effects before making such a huge decision that will impact generations to come. If you are willing to look at the reality of what has happened in Canada and Massachusetts, I can arrange for a meeting with a Canadian educator with 28 years experience teaching in their public schools (for a super-condensed version, go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lTZmgfpIIo). Please take the time to look at the ramifications of this law that go beyond what most expect. Why the rush to pass this bill? We can look back at the impact of the no-fault divorce experiment on the United States. No fault divorce was the beginning of redefining marriage. Has no-fault divorce improved American society as a whole? Do we have less poverty? fewer unwanted children? fewer murders of minors? less violence? fewer people in prison? fewer people needing welfare? fewer young people needing remedial education? less drug abuse? fewer gangs? Fewer tax dollars needed to prop up those in need? Forty years of the breakdown of marriage has resulted in breakdown of society, and without a turnaround, we are simply scratching the surface of further breakdown.

During the week of Oct 28, 2013, in an unprecedented special session, our state will be examining redefining marriage yet again as being between same gendered couples which will further the breakdown of society. Why? Because marriage will then mean everything, and will at the same time mean nothing. Lesbian Masha Gessen's honesty about the real intent of pushing for Same Gender Marriage is revealing http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n9M0xcs2Vw4 . I appreciate her honesty. I wish everyone were as forthright. She admits that marriage between one man and one woman for life will be devalued even further with the goal for it to become nonexistent. Will this further redefinition help our already broken society or further the breakdown and devastation of society and the generations? I encourage us to slow down and learn from the past.

Redefining marriage will open up the doors to even more diverse forms of "marriage" (see the poster in Canadian public schools titled Love Has No Gender promoting polygamy http://www.peacehamilton.com/news/2012-09-26.pdf) and there will be no legal or logical reason to prevent diverse marriage forms from being adopted. Currently, law and logic support the concept that marriage is between one man and one woman, if we knock down that legal wall, anyone with any type of relationship will have legal and logical basis to argue that their form of relationship be given the equal right to marriage.

3. I am concerned about the statement on the last page of the article (under subheading Conversion Therapy) that says, "It is impossible to "turn" an individual from gay to straight." Oh really? Since when did this hotly debated point of contention become so clear cut and conclusive? Is this an honest statement? What will be the impact of this bold assumption on our keiki? It is natural for young people to have questions and confusion about sexual attractions (even more so when LGBT lifestyles will be promoted and celebrated even more). If a young person hears this message of "it's impossible to change from gay to straight" when they are having some confusing times, the message can begin to solidify an identity that is not their identity.

4. I am concerned about the statement on the last page of the article (under subheading Religion) that says, "All students are entitled to their religious viewpoints, but those

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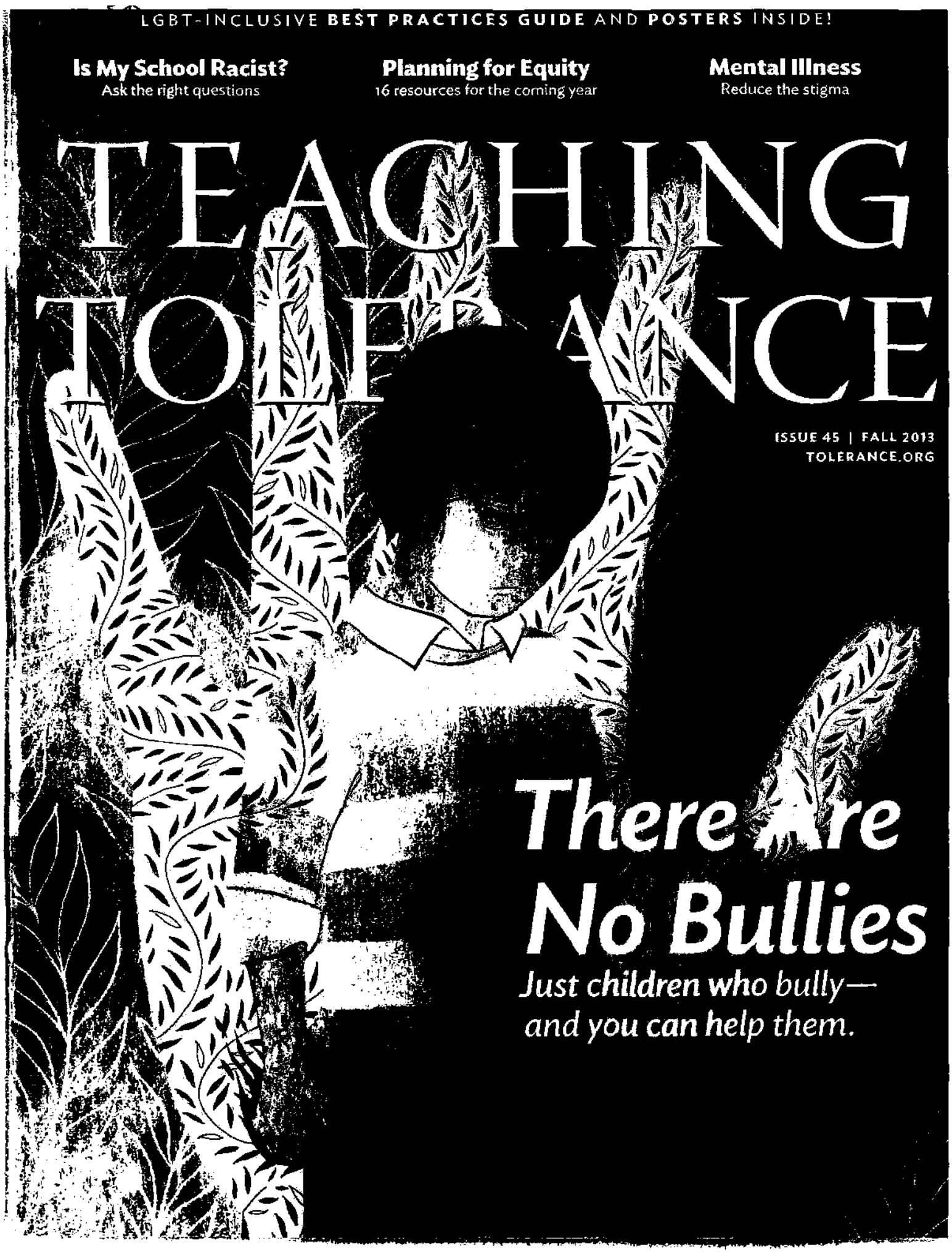

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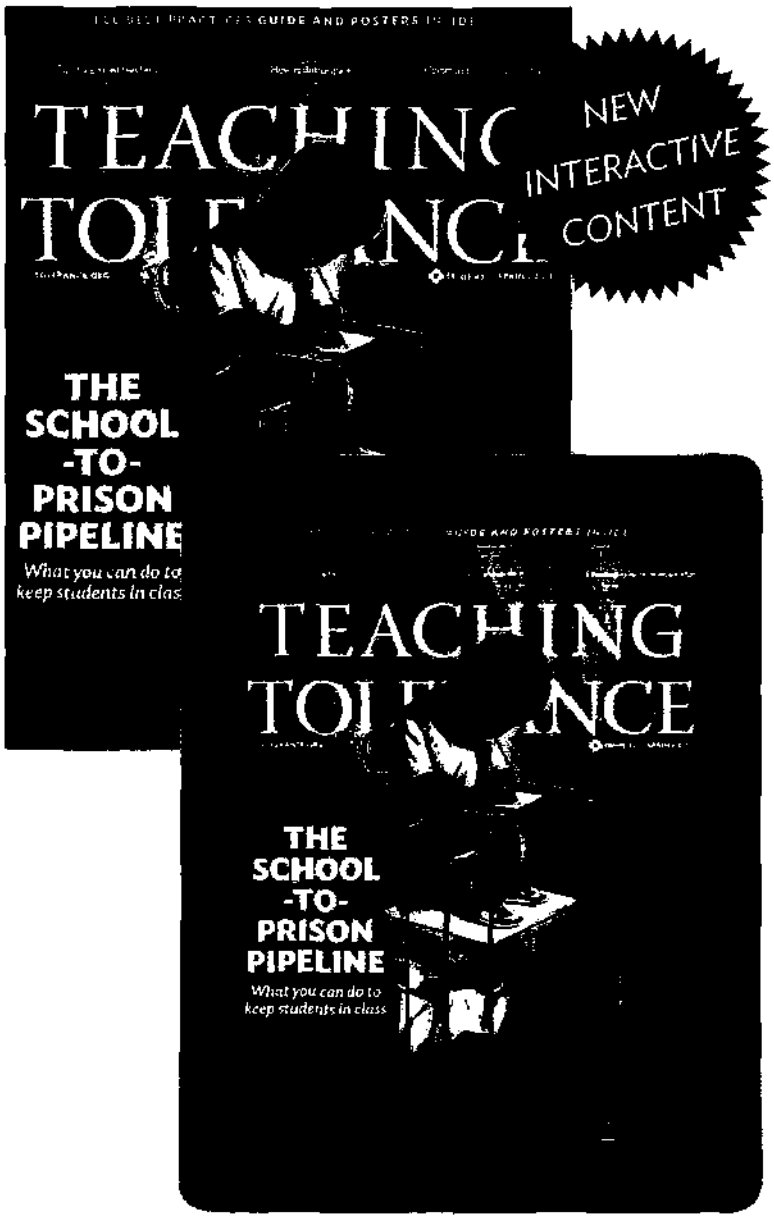

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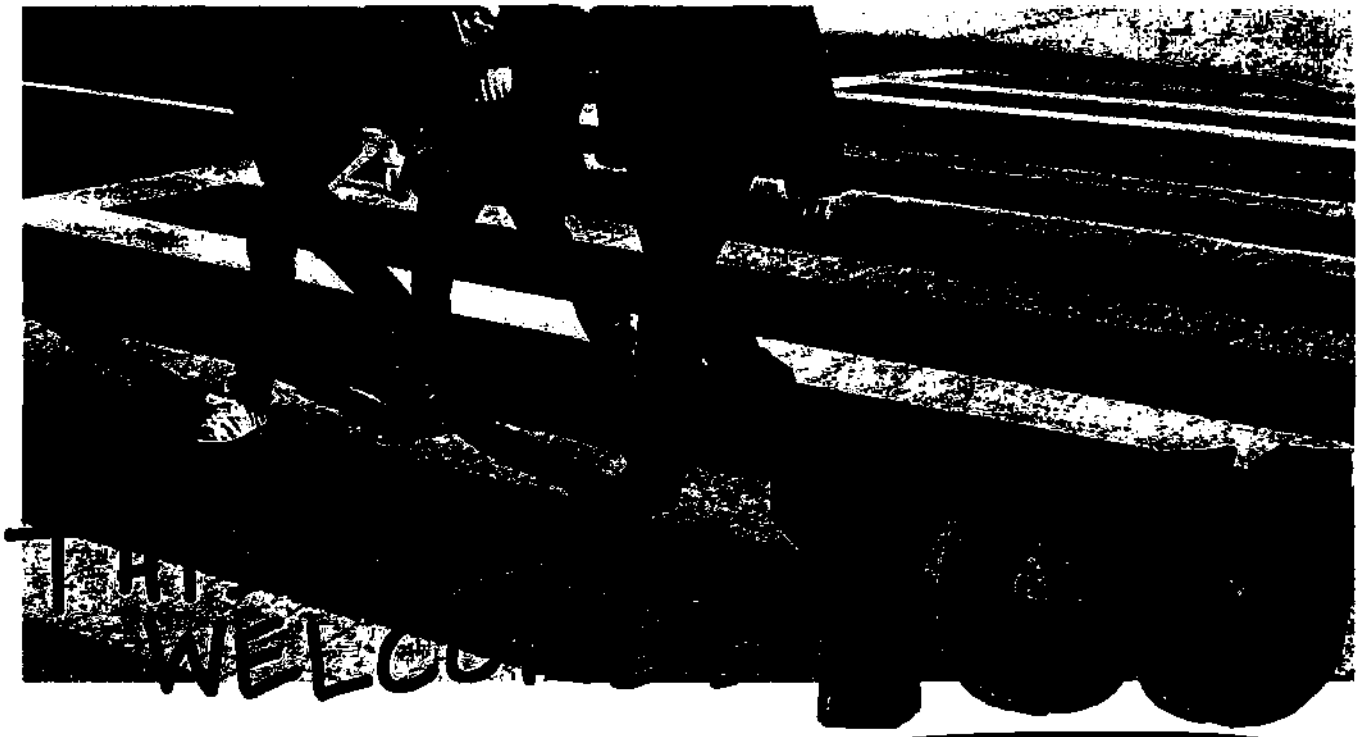


A Teaching Tolerance Guide for School Leaders

SCHOOLS ARE PLACES OF LEARNING AND also miniature societies. The climate of a school has a direct impact on both how well students learn and how well they interact with their peers. Teachers and administrators work hard to make their classrooms welcoming places where each student feels included. But despite these efforts, students who are—or who are perceived to be—lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender (LGBT) continue to face a harsh reality.

According to a recent Human Rights Campaign survey, LGBT students report being harassed at school—both verbally and physically—at twice the rate of non-LGBT youth. With heightened stressors like bullying, harassment and a lack of role models, LGBT students are also more likely to experience negative educational outcomes.

Needless to say, LGBT students need allies.

Studies have shown that creating a supportive environment for LGBT students improves educational outcomes for all students, not just those who may identify as LGBT. And remember, it's not about politics—it's about supporting students. Any educator, regardless of his personal beliefs, can be a resource for LGBT students.

It all starts with awareness. Often educators are unsure how to support their LGBT students in a meaningful way. These best practices were compiled to give school leaders the knowledge they need to create a climate in which their most vulnerable students feel safe and valued. Through inclusive policies and nurturing practices, administrators, counselors and teachers have the power to build an educational environment that is truly welcoming to all students.

Build an Inclusive School Climate

Gay-Straight Alliance Clubs (GSAs)

GSAs are a great way to educate students about diversity and support LGBT students. They can also be a valuable resource to administrators trying to gauge the temperature of their school climates.

Remember that a GSA club is no different from any other student club and cannot be subjected to any extra regulations.

Inclusive Leaders and Allies

Leaders who promote a safe and inclusive environment are essential in creating a positive school climate, and they should be rewarded accordingly.

Publicly praise staff members who actively promote an inclusive environment. This practice both affirms their positive action and creates a culture in which other staff members are unafraid to be allies to LGBT and gender-nonconforming students.

Clothing and Dress Codes

Clothing is a key way students express their various identities—and many fashion choices are protected by the First Amendment.

GETTY IMAGES

TYPE ILLUSTRATION BY SUNNY PAULK

- Enforce dress codes among all students equally. A school cannot constitutionally forbid male students to wear dresses, for instance, if other students are allowed to wear dresses.
- Empower students to express themselves. Messages supporting LGBT rights are protected speech, whether they're spoken, worn on a button or printed on a T-shirt.

Transgender and Intersex Students

Gender (how a person feels) and biological sex (the physical makeup of a person's anatomy) are two different things, and they are not always aligned. For example, a person may be raised as a girl but identify as a boy. Others may have been born with a condition that places their biological sex between male and female; they may still be deciding which gender they will ultimately adopt.

- Help students whose gender is incorrectly listed on paperwork to correct the situation and ensure school staff and students address them using their preferred pronouns.
- Designate a gender-neutral restroom. Binary (women/men or boy/girl) restrooms aren't inclusive and can be unsafe spaces for transgender and intersex students. Allow each transgender or intersex student to use the restroom in which that student is most comfortable, whether it's the gender-neutral restroom or the restroom that corresponds with the student's self-identified gender.

Proms and Other School Events

LGBT students and students who do not conform to gender norms can easily feel excluded from extracurricular events like proms if care is not taken to implement inclusive practices and language.

- Use gender-inclusive language on all event communications, including invitations.
- Educate event organizers about students' First Amendment right to attend events with a same-sex date and to wear clothing of their choice.

Privacy

Four of 10 LGBT youths say the community in which they live is not accepting of LGBT people, which makes it absolutely imperative that educators respect students' right to privacy.

Never reveal a student's sexual orientation or gender identity without the student's permission—even to the student's family.

Preventing and Addressing Problems

Anti-Bullying Policy

Before a school can be inclusive of all students, it must be safe for all students. Your school's anti-bullying policy or code of conduct is the most public statement of its commitment to student safety. A strong policy protects all students, but many schools need explicit guidance on safeguarding LGBT students.

- Include language specifically prohibiting harassment based on nonconformity to gender norms, gender identity and gender expression.
- Give examples of harassment based on actual or perceived sexual orientation.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of your school's anti-bullying program annually using student and staff surveys. (Find ours at tolerance.org/equity-audits.)
- Designate an anti-bullying coordinator as well as an anti-bullying task force. Staff members specifically trained to prevent and respond to bullying incidents play a pivotal role in developing and maintaining your school's anti-bullying program and are essential if a bullying incident occurs.
- Communicate effectively and often with students, parents or guardians, and the community about school climate issues such as bullying. Post the name and contact information for your school's anti-bullying coordinator in the office, on the school website and in the student handbook.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Bullying Basics
Answers to frequently asked questions about bullying.
tolerance.org/bullying-basics

Responding to Hate and Bias at School
A Teaching Tolerance guide that shows educators how to respond to a hate-related incident in their school or community and guides them through crisis management and post-crisis efforts at improvement.
tolerance.org/hate-and-bias

Speak Up at School
A Teaching Tolerance guide that gives educators the tools to help students and themselves turn from bystanders to upstanders and explains how to respond to biased remarks from peers, parents or even administrators.
tolerance.org/speak-up-at-school

Examining Your School's Climate
A questionnaire to begin the process of assessing your school climate.
tolerance.org/activity/examining-your-schools-climate

Glossary of Terms
A quick-guide to improve your LGBT vocabulary.
tolerance.org/LGBT-best-practices-terms

Ten Tips for Starting a GSA
These 10 simple steps can help make a GSA's launch successful.
tolerance.org/10-tips-GSA

- Ensure that reactions to reports of harassment do not further stigmatize students who were targeted for their real or perceived LGBT identities.
- Educate teachers and administrators about common bullying myths, such as the idea that LGBT students are "asking for it," by expressing their sexual orientations or dressing in their preferred manners.

Bullying Hot Spots

Bullying often occurs when adults aren't present. Identifying areas where bullying takes place and taking action to make those places safer is an important step in the school climate improvement process.

Identify "hot spots" where bullying often occurs (inside or outside) and take immediate corrective actions to eliminate them, such as training and assigning students or staff to monitor these locations or adding cameras.

Training

From students to district administrators, everyone has a role to play in creating an inclusive school climate. Proper training gives all school community members a thorough understanding of the part they play in making their school an environment that welcomes all students.

- Conduct student training once a year, including age-appropriate discussion of the following:
  - The importance of diversity (including nonconformity with gender norms) in the student body;
  - Behaviors that constitute bullying;
  - The negative impact of bullying;
  - How students should respond to bullying;
  - How teachers should respond to bullying;
  - Disciplinary consequences for students who bully their peers; and
  - The process for reporting bullying.
- Conduct teacher and administrator training once a year, including the following topics in addition to those above:
  - Root causes of bullying;
  - Steps to foster an inclusive education environment for all students—specifically students who don't conform to gender norms or who might be perceived to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender;
  - Review of the school's bullying policy, emphasizing staff's responsibility to respond to all bullying; and
  - Disciplinary consequences for school staff who engage in or ignore bullying.

Religion

Religion can be a hot topic when discussing LGBT issues. All students are entitled to their religious viewpoints, but those viewpoints may not intrude on the rights of others.

Harassment based on religious beliefs is unacceptable and should be addressed according to your school's anti-bullying policy.

Conversion Therapy

Also known as reparative or sexual reorientation therapy, this pseudo-scientific "therapy" has been denounced by all major medical and psychological associations and may cause a student great psychological harm.

- Educate school staff about myths perpetrated by those who conduct conversion therapy. It is impossible to "turn" an individual from gay to straight.
- Prepare counselors and teachers to support students who are coping with the emotional side effects of conversion therapy. Students who have undergone this so-called therapy have reported increased anxiety, depression and, in some cases, increased thoughts about suicide

Get Started

Easy-to-implement tips for making your school more LGBT-inclusive

- Empower GSA members to educate their peers by providing venues for communication (e.g., airtime during the daily announcements, a wall on which to hang posters or a school assembly).
- At end-of-the-year award ceremonies, present special "Diversity Leader" certificates to educators who actively promoted an inclusive school environment throughout the year.
- Check your dress code today. Are there rules that apply only to some students? If so, take immediate steps to remove them from your student handbook.
- Evaluate your administrative forms and communications. Do they use gender-neutral language or provide an opportunity for students to communicate their gender identity? If not, make the needed updates.
- Designate one member of your prom committee as the "Inclusivity Planner" to ensure that every student feels welcome.
- Include language in school privacy policies that explicitly states the confidentiality of information pertaining to students' sexual orientations and gender identities.
- Review your current anti-bullying policy. Don't forget to get input from students, parents, guardians, educators and the community.
- Teaching Tolerance's mapping exercise helps you begin identifying your school's "hot spots." Download it at tolerance.org/map-it-out.
- Teaching Tolerance's guide, *Speak Up at School*, gives both educators and students practical strategies for speaking up against biased speech.
- Include faith groups in your school's multicultural club as an opportunity for cross-cultural understanding.
- Our article, "Therapy of Lies," is a great resource for educating school staff about conversion therapy. Find it at tolerance.org/therapy-of-lies. ◆

Toolkit
Understand the daily challenges faced by LGBT students.
VISIT » tolerance.org/LGBT-challenges

To the committee on Judiciary and Labor:

Testimony on SB1

My name is Dennis Kim and I would like to testify on the inadequacies of SB1 in opposition to it.

I think I am the typical citizen in Hawaii: I am Hawaiian, Chinese, Korean, with a tinge of Rotuman. My extended family has married into every race. But the Ohana is the driving force that keeps everybody together. Our Ohana has Gay, Lesbian, and Straight people, we have Baptists, Catholics, Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Methodists, Buddhists Athiests, and Agnostics in our family. We have family gatherings all the time, and have never experienced any contention whatsoever based on our diverse beliefs. We revel in everyone's successes, and share their sorrows in times of need. We allow everyone to practice their religious beliefs according to their own tenants.

This bill will change all that. As you very well know, it is driving a wedge between people of faith who oppose this bill and those who support it. I have been talking to many of our legislators and feel that many are missing the point. They see this bill as a Civil Rights issue only. The reality is that it is also a First Amendment Issue. Only after people of faith made more noise did legislators consider the true religious impact rather than give it token consideration. For example, the Governor's bill and even the Senate bill only mention "solemnization of

I OPPOSE **The bill # is SB1** proposed same sex marriage. Let the people Vote! I am "for" protecting my religious freedoms. What is this country coming too! You pass this and your taking the religious freedoms of millions. Our country was built on the very thing that you are trying to take away from us by passing this bill. Taking away our freedom to vote on this is just a sign of what we can expect from future America!! Please re consider and see the big picture of this choice!!!

Elsie Tolutau

Senator Clayton Hee
State Capital
Honolulu, H awaii
Fax 808-586-7334

Representative Fale,

I write to urge you to vote NO to the governor's proposed Marriage Equity Act. This bill infringes upon our religious freedom here in our beloved State of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Helen Goo
55-635 Naniloa Loop
Laie, Hawaii

Yuen Wah Choy
5543 Kanau St.
Honolulu, HI 96821
October 24, 2013

Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Aloha Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary Committee and Finance Committee:

I am an early childhood educator with over 25 years of experiences. Last week, with honor, I watched the news about teenagers killing teachers in Las Vegas and Massachusetts. These young men who committed such violent crimes showed low self-image and confused identity.

I am afraid that a home without a father and a mother will make it worst for young people to deal with their self-image and identity. They need a home that shows clear role distinctions of male and female to support them.

Therefore, for the sake of our kids and the generations that followed, please keep traditional marriage of one man and one woman. It's the best for our children, and for your children. A stable home needs a clear male and female model.

Thank you for trying to do a good job for all in the State , especially for our kiekies. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Jennie Tung
500 University Ave PH 1
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

I am opposed to gay marriages in Hawaii. Marriages are to be between a man and a woman.

Thank you

Mrs. Jennie Tung

Jennie Tung

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Ramona Asato
E-MAIL: ramona0599@gmail.com

Fax cover sheet

DATE: 10/25/2013

TO: Clayton Hee, Karl Rhoads, Sylvia Luke

COMPANY/DEPT: C.H.-CHAIR, K.R. - CHAIR, S.L. - CHAIR

FROM: Ramona Asato

NO of pages (Including cover sheet): 1

COMMENTS: "Testimony in Opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality" Please do not pass this bill, Hawaii voted several years ago and killed a similar bill. We the people did vote gay and non gay. Why did the people we elect into office try to revise and pass a similar bill. Sometimes in life you will have to take a stance, I pray that you will stand for traditional marriage, it is not a union, it is two people becoming one. For the sake of Hawaii's future and the future of our keiki, this bill will be the start of a moral and ethic decline here in beautiful Hawaii Nei. I beg of you for my children and my childrens children do not pass this bill. May God be with you. In the name of Jesus, pray on it and do what is right in Gods eyes, once you go forward it will be hard to reverse your actions. Ask for Godly wisdom in everything that you do. Please.

Aloha
Ramona Asato

prayer center of the pacific

From: prayer center of the pacific [prayercenterpacific@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2013 5:12 PM
To: 'JDLTestimony-InPerson@capitol.hawaii.gov'
Subject: SB 1 Equal Rights

SB 1 Equal Rights
Oct. 28,2013 10:30 Am Auditorium

Dear Committee Judiciary and Labor, Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

My Name Is Pastor Virginia Domligan
The Prayer Center of the Pacific

Today, I made time to come out from the trenches to testify to your committee with all humility of heart your decision on every bill that you sign which passes your committee and other committees how it effects society as a whole and individually. I will address the issue at hand SB 1 relating to equal rights. Allow me this brief moment to share the effects of the laws that passed through that touches lives in every part of society here in our beloved State of Hawaii. In 1970 a bill was passed for abortion with no restriction no parental notification. 52 Million abortions have been reported in America nobody knows the effects unless you're in the trenches I am here to share a firsthand experience a 15 year old comes in just had an abortion the day before her boy friend paid for it no parental notification she lays in the clinic as the doctor proceed to suck out the fetus and left the pieces in a tray for her eyes to see. She is 15 years old devastated crying without any comfort this is only one of the many stories we find in the trenches of this life because of laws passed. Addressing the issue at hand A young man lay's in the hospital ashamed suffering dyeing of full blown aids because of his life style choice of having anal sex with another man. Yes, his partner was at his bed side what pain and sorrow their family all suffered. Their hearts where heavy because of their choices. Who paid the hospital bill he was unable to work for a long time this was self afflicted. **It's not about equal rights it's about a life style choice that is not natural that will affect the fabric of our society.** There was been no such practices since the beginning of society it has always been a man and a women in wedlock. Like everything else did your committee do an environmental impact study on society there are facts coming out from Massachusetts and Canada on same sex marriages and its effects. Have you studied the facts and weighted the cost on how it will impact the State of Hawaii as a whole. You have decided so hastily without the people's voice in every island don't you feel convicted remember the Constitutional Amendment, Let the people decide place it on the ballot for a vote. We the people of Hawaii who you represent want to decide it is our right as a citizen we want due process. **Vote No to SB 1 Equal rights.**

Second, the provision in subsection (c), if enacted, would be in direct conflict with the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction And Enforcement Act ("UCCJEA") (Hawaii Revised Statute §583-A) whereby it states that "the family court shall adjudicate child custody". Pursuant to the UCCJEA, enacted in all states, the "home state" which has exclusive jurisdiction over a child exists where the child has lived for six (6) months or more prior to the filing of any custody proceeding. As such, per the UCCJEA, the Family Court here in Hawaii would not have continuing exclusive jurisdiction over a child that has not resided here for six (6) months prior to the filing of the divorce, and as such §580-1(c) is invalid or contradictory at the very least. The UCCJEA does not require the parties to be married. As such, in a jurisdiction where same-sex marriages are not legal, the issue of the custody of the same-sex parties' child(ren) would still be controlled by the UCCJEA. It does not appear that the Family Court here, even if the parties consented to personal jurisdiction, would have jurisdiction regarding child custody.

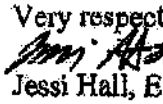
This also holds true somewhat for child support and/or spousal support. The parties may consent to the Hawaii Family Court having jurisdiction to establish child support and/or spousal support, but the Hawaii Family Court would not have any authority to withhold or garnish an individual's wages in another state. Garnishment/enforcement is pursued through the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act whereby the Child Support Enforcement Agency in the state of the Responsible Parent assists in garnishing child support.

With respect to property division, if allowed, it is unclear as to which state's property laws control- Hawaii or the state they reside? Hawaii Family Court would not have any long-arm jurisdiction to convey transfer of title to the property. In other words, if the Court ordered that one spouses is awarded the real property in California and the other spouse refuses to transfer title or move, Hawaii Family Court cannot order that the Bureau of Conveyances there transfer the title nor can the Family Court here order that a California sheriff remove the other spouse from the property. This renders the provisions of a same-sex divorce essentially invalid assuming the parties are not domiciled here.

Lastly, this provision as written then allows same-sex spouses to have more rights (although maybe unenforceable) than those that are not of the same-sex, just because the state they live in does not recognize same-sex marriages. As an editorial comment though, if the parties' marriage (performed here) was not recognized in the state they reside, why would they continue to live there or why did they get married in the first place?

Thank you for your time to allow the Family Law Section to submit its concerns regarding SB1.

Very respectfully submitted,



Jessi Hall, Esq.
Chair, Family Law Section
Hawaii State Bar Association

Cc. Justin Sturdivant, Vice Chair/Chair Elect
Hawaii State Bar Association
Representative Marcus R. Oshiro

OCT 28, 2013
10:30 AM
SB 1

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY

RE: SB1

DEAR SENATE COMMITTEE

I AM OPPOSED TO YOU PASSING THIS BILL FOR MANY REASONS. I BELIEVE ALL SHOULD FEAR GOD, HIS LAWS AND DECREES. LEV. 20:13 A MAN SHALL NOT LAY WITH A MAN AS HE LAYS WITH A WOMAN. ITS MY DUTY AS A CHRISTIAN TO WARN MY BROTHERS & SISTERS AND IF HE TURNS , AMEN . IF NOT IT IS ON HIS OWN HEAD.

I AM ALSO THINKING OF THE IMPACT IT WILL HAVE ON THE CHILDREN & THE EDUCATORS, WILL SODOMY BE TAUGHT IN SCHOOL?

THE ACT OF SODOMY, NOT THAT ITS NOT ALREADY HAPPENING NOW. BUT THE THOUGHT OF GAY MARRIAGE IN HAWAII WILL BRING MANY TO GET MARRIED HERE AND STAY IN OUR HOTELS AND LEAVE FECAL MATTER ON THE HOTEL RUGS AND SO FORTH. JUST A FEW MONTH AGO THE NEWS SPOKE OF A HEPATITES OUT BRAKE ON KAUAI OF 5 OR MORE MEN AT A MEN CLUB. WAS IT BECAUSE THE WERE HAVING SEX WITH EACH OTHER OR DID THE PICK IT UP FROM THE HOTEL ROOM? AS WE ALL KNOW HUMAN WASTE (DO DO) IS FILLED WITH BACTERIA THAT CAUSES MANY ILLNESS. TO THINK OF THE VACCUME BRUSHES SPREADING IT ALL OVER THE ROOM AND TO OTHER ROOMS IS FRIGHTENING. MOST CHILDREN SIT ON THE FLOOR TO PUT ON THEIR SHOE BECAUSE THE ARE TO SMALL TO REACH THEIR FEET FROM THE BED TO THE FLOOR AND NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES YOU TELL THEM TO WASH THEIR HAND ! OH WILL YOU KNOW, WELL MORE SPREADING OF THESE GERMS. GERMS THAT CAN CAUSE GREAT ILLNESS OR DEATH AFTER ALL LYSOL KILL 99% OF BACTERIA? IF YOU REMEMBER TO BRING A CAN.

IT ALSO CONCERNS ME THAT WE ARE TAKING THE WORD MARRIAGE / MARRY THE TRUE DEFINATION IS WEDLOCK BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE/ MAN & WOMEN/ MALE AND FEMALE/ SPERM & EGG. YOU ARE TAKING A WORD AND CHANGING ITS DEFINATION. WHAT LAW CAN STAND IF WE START CHANGING DEFINATIONS OF A WORD? AFTER ALL GAY DOES NOT MEAN HOMOSEXUAL, IT MEANS CAREFREE AND HAPPY.

THIS WEEK ON THE NEWS THEY SPOKE ABOUT THE VOTE AGAINST GAY MARRIAGE THAT TOOK PLACE SOME 10 TO 15 YEARS AGO. THE RESULT WAS APPROX 69% NOT IN FAVOR OF GAY MARRIAGE AND I THINK THE BLANKS WERE COUNTED AS BEING IN FAVOR? ATTACHED TO THIS NO VOTE ,WAS ALLOWING THE LEGISLATURE TO VOTE THIS ISSUE. I KNOW I VOTED AGAINST GAY MARRIAGE AND DON'T RECALL THE ADDENDEM . I MAY HAVE READ IT I DON'T REMEMBER AND I'M SURE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO VOTED CAN'T REMEMBER EITHER. BUT I CAN SAY IN THAT DAY AND AGE PEOPLE

I'm

WERE MORE TRUSTING AND TRUSTABLE. THAT LONG AGO I TRUSTED THE LAW MAKER AND THE GOVERNMENT. I BELIEVED IN THE SYSTEM, NOW I AM NOT SO SURE. I THINK THIS IS A ISSUE WITH MANY PEOPLE. PEOPLE KNOW THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE VOTING PUBLIC VOTED AGAINST GAY MARRIAGE AND ARE STARTING TO SEE THE LAW MAKERS ARE NOT IN FAVOR OF THE MAJORITYOF THE PEOPLE, BUT LOOKING OUT FOR YOUR OWN AGENDA. THIS HAS CREATED A BRAKE DOWN OF TRUST, A BRAKE DOWN OF RESPECT, THE BRAKE DOWN OF SOCIETY. THE FEAR OF NOT BEING ABLE TO TRUST YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL NO DOUBT HAVE GRAVE CONSEQEUNCES.

PLEASE TAKE THIS TESTIMONY IN TO YOUR CONSIDERATION AS YOU VOTE BILL SB1 AND THINK ABOUT THE IMPACT ON ALL THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE ALOHA STATE, THE VACATION STATE, OUR BEATIFUL STATE OF HAWAII.

MAHALO, [redacted] OLYMPIA FREITAS

PS SORRY NOT COMPLETE TYPED
I DO NOT OWN A COMPUTER

TESTIMONY

BY: George L. Berish
on behalf of The American Political Party

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

RE: SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

DATE: Monday, October 28, 2013

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

I wish to appear to present the following testimony in person.

George L. Berish

Contact Information:

88 Piikoi Street, Unit 4009
Honolulu, HI 96814

808-528-4146 ext. 217 (day)
808-593-8977 (evenings)

tapp@America-3.org

The American Political Party

Testimony Submitted for Hearings on
The State's Right to Redefine Marriage

To ask whether the government class should change the traditional meaning of the word "Marriage" is to ask the wrong question.

The correct first question is whether the government class has a legitimate right to change it?

And for the reasons I'm here to present, my answer is no. It does not.

For the record, I refer to the definition forged by all of humanity's True Religions, and Great Philosophies, from time immemorial, which is:

- *A permanent bond formed between a man and a woman,*
- *A bond that creates the basic unit of society in which children are conceived and raised, and*
- *A bond that is protected, and enforced by society as a whole.*

My first reason is that no borrower has a right to modify that which she or he borrows.

In this case, the world's True Religions and Great Philosophies created the traditional definition of "Marriage", and held it sacred, long before humanity invented governments.

That makes secular government a borrower of the word, not its owner.

And that means the government class has no more right to modify it, than I have a right to borrow my neighbor's Koran and scribble over the sections I feel need changing.

My second reason is based on the fact I am here as a member of the American People. That's significant, because we are the first People to define ourselves in terms of common beliefs and principles, instead of a common bloodline.

That's why in this room full of Americans whose bloodlines must be traced back to Adam and Eve before they intersect, any of us can stand to say "We Americans", and the world finds that normal.

In contrast, had my four immigrant grandparents fled tyranny to places like China, France, Africa or Mexico (as a few examples), I would be ridiculed, if not physically harmed, for standing today to say We Chinese, We French, We Africans, or We Mexicans.

My point is that because we are not defined by a bloodline, we are either defined by a common set of beliefs and principles, or we no longer exist at all.

And none can refute that the belief system America's founders knew as the Judeo/Christian belief system of Western Civilization is the one in which they were educated, the one on which they relied to argue our right to separate from The People of England was legitimate, and the one they wrote into fabric of the Constitution whose job is limited to protecting the rights individually endowed by our Creator — not defining them.

tapp@America-3.org

In practical terms here is irrefutable proof, that you have no right to fundamentally modify that core, and it would be foolish to do so.

Today the Church sits at your feet today pleading that you not trample on what it holds dear.

If America's core was not the Judeo/Christian belief system that embraces "Separation of Church and State", but was instead the belief systems of many other nations — most notable today being the system underlying Islamic nations -- the State would be sitting at the feet of the Church instead.

For in those systems the only role given to State is as the enforcement arm of the church.

For the record I should point out the foundation of Western Civilization's "Separation of Church and State" began with these words offered by Jesus Christ, the man, to other scholars of his time for whom such separation was unknown, if not unthinkable:

"Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's and unto God that which is God's"

That declaration is the anchor from which Western Civilization set sail on its jounry to establish the profoundly held belief that a person's duty to government and duty to God are separate and distinct. So to reject that belief system is to surrender any legitimate right to hold this meeting for this purpose at all.

For those inclined to quibble, Jews and Christians are not different people. That's why for centuries they have shared a single Judeo/Christian belief system named after them. They only differ over the question of whether the father of Jesus Christ was God or a man.

But in this context, that is no consequence. Both agree Jesus Christ was a man who taught a set of values that civilization as we know it depends on. A simple example is the belief in "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." In contrast to today's godless class whose leaders openly declare "We do, because we can".

My third reason why the government class in Hawaii lacks a legitimate right to change the definition of "Marriage" is you are collectively presuming to change all of human history, while still ignorant of the first question demanded by such undertaking.

"What legitimate need does the government class have to define the sacred institution of marriage in secular laws at all?

To which the answer today is: None.

There was once. But I'd wager much no one in this room can tell us when the need for secular law to define "Marriage" ended, and what laws were repealed to end it.

For example, if you think marriage must be defined to write inheritance laws you are wrong. How could a marriage certificate be a moral or ethical base for defining a child's financial rights, and the financial obligations of the man and woman who conceive a child, when over 30% of children born in the United States are born as what the Old World labeled bastard children — children whose parents conceived them without a marriage certificate? Those rights and obligations are morally and ethically defined they the act that conceives the child, and that is better defined in secular law by DNA than it is by a paper certificate.

I have other reasons, and more detailed reasoning, but no more time. So I will end by emphasizing the foundation of my arguments.

Having rejected a common bloodline as our definition, the American People, as well as the legitimacy of our existence and nature of our government, depend on, and are defined by, a common set of principles and beliefs.

We are not, as Old World bigots prefer to think of us, and have us think of ourselves, mongrels and half breeds made up of part one of their kind, and part another.

We are One People forged from many, in the same way copper and tin is forged into Bronze that was so superior to its parts and entire epoch of human history is named the Bronze Age. And none is named after tin or copper.

Therefore, we are either defined by a single Judeo/Christian belief system forged over thousands of years by Western Civilization. Or we cease to be a People at all.

That's why I see it as hubris for the State to presume the power to redefine that belief system.

And that's why now is a good time to rethink whether the admittedly high self-esteem provides sufficient collective wisdom to safely tamper with thousands of years of hard won knowledge, wisdom and experience accumulated at a cost of many horrible mistakes.

Like the one I fear you are arrogantly willing to risk.

Thank you.
George Berish
for/The American Political Party

October 25, 2013

Masaaki Oshiba
760 Ainaola Dr.
Hilo, HI 96720

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Testimony in **Opposition** of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in a Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.
I request your "NO" vote to the Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.
Three other important issues related to the subject are: Let the People Vote, Protect Religious Rights and Freedoms and Protect Traditional Marriage Laws.

Sincerely,

Masaaki Oshiba
Hilo, HI.

October 25, 2013

Yoshito Oshiba
760 Ainaola Dr.
Hilo, HI 96720

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Sincerely,

Yoshito Oshiba
Hilo, HI.

October 25, 2013

Muriel Kaleo Oshiba-Cabanting
760 Ainaola Dr.
Hilo, HI 96720

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Testimony in **Opposition** of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in a Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.
I am a registered voter of the State of Hawaii born in the State of Hawaii 70 years. My brother like many of the men and women were killed in action for our freedom in this United States of America. Here I am asking my legislator to speak up to protect and preserve our freedom of religion also to protect the rights of religious organizations that we may not be enjoined to support or perform same-sex marriages against our religious beliefs and values. Protect our rights to maintain our houses of worship that we will not be required to host same-sex marriages or celebrations in our facilities. (OUR)
I request your "NO" vote to the Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
Muriel Kaleo Oshiba-Cabanting
Muriel Kaleo Oshiba-Cabanting
Registered voter
Hilo, HI.

October 25, 2013

Gloria M Heu
916 I- Ainaola Dr.
Hilo, HI 96720

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Testimony in **Opposition** of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

I am writing in **opposition** to the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 that will be discussed in a Special Legislative Session beginning on October 28, 2013.
I am a registered voter. My set back about the proposed redefinition of marriage is that I will not have a chance to exercise my vote against this issue. Let the people Vote.
I believe in God's purposes for our lives. I believe in the purpose of marriage between a man and a woman. I strongly believe in protecting and preserving religious freedoms and the right to refuse same-sex gender marriage ceremonies, celebrations amongst religious affiliates and facilities.
I request your "NO" vote to the Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
Gloria M Heu
Gloria M Heu
Registered voter
Hilo, HI.

Yuen Wah Choy
5543 Kanau St..
Honolulu, HI 96821
October 24, 2013

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Aloha Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and labor:

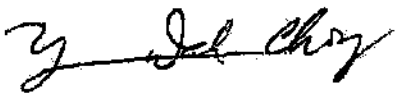
I am an early childhood educator with over 25 years of experiences. Last week, with honor, I watched the news about teenagers killing teachers in Las Vegas and Massachusetts. These young men who committed such violent crimes showed low self-image and confused identity.

I am afraid that a home without a father and a mother will make it worst for young people to deal with their self-image and identity. They need a home that shows clear role distinctions of male and female to support them.

Therefore, for the sake of our kids and the generations that followed, please keep traditional marriage of one man and one woman. It's the best for our children, and for your children. A stable home needs a clear male and female model.

Thank you for trying to do a good job for all in the State, especially for our kiekies. Mahalo.

Sincerely,



Hagoth and SusieTung Hannemann
3260A Monsarrat Ave
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

October 25, 2013

The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
The Honorable Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair
Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Monday, October 28, 2013 at 10:30 am

*Re: In **Opposition** to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013*

Dear Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because

I am opposed to gay marriages in Hawaii. Marriages are to be between a man and a woman.

Thank you

Hagoth and Susie Tung Hannemann

I urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1. Thank you for your time and leadership.

Yuen Wah Choy
5543 Kanau St..
Honolulu, HI 96821
October 24, 2013

Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Aloha Honorable Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and labor:

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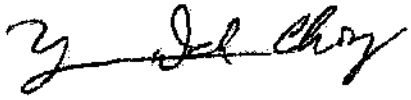
I am afraid that a home without a father and a mother will make it worst for young people to deal with their self-image and identity. They need a home that shows clear role distinctions of male and female to support them.

Therefore, for the sake of our kids and the generations that followed, please keep traditional marriage of one man and one woman. It's the best for our children, and for your children. A stable home needs a clear male and female model.

Thank you for trying to do a good job for all in the State, especially for our kiekies. Mahalo.

Sincerely,



Lawmakers Ponder the Thought!!!

To our Friends & American Citizens of the gay community, being complacent on risky behavior is not a moral issue for people to decide, but a health issue concerning HIV, AIDS & even DEATH. This risky behavior is opposite from the Law of Average in Science & should be address in the Chamber of Law. GOD BLESS AMERICA.

Caring Humaniterian:

Noel S. Muraki

STEPHEN & TONI LATHROP-LEE
RESIDENCE: 92-1200 UAHANAI ST. KAPOLEI, HI 96707
BUSINESS: 95-1249 MEHEULA PKWY. STE 140, MILILANI, HI 96789

Monday, October 21, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S Beretania St
Room 407
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Hee,

We are writing to express our concerns over the Special Legislative Session schedule for October 29, 2013 concerning same-sex marriages. We object to the use of a Special Legislative Session as it does not provide adequate time for a fair process.

We don't believe that elected officials are listening to the voice of the people and are being pushed by a small minority of individuals to act on something that is not in the best interest of our state. Although we are not in agreement with the civil union law, we do feel that law provides adequate equity to the small minority of people wishing to be provided equal benefits in a partner relationship.

We urge you not to make a rash decision and to stop this Special Legislative Session before a huge injustice is done to the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lathrop-Lee

Toni Lathrop-Lee

Toni Lathrop-Lee

Aloha Clayton!

I heard a rumor once that our Hawai'i legislature is overloaded with lawyers. I don't know the numbers. But if that's true, they're either make-believe or the shittiest lawyers in town. At least there are plenty who musta got their license to practice from Kmart or something.

This senate bill (and the gov's bill) for that matter, for SSM, are garbage. If the religious dudes have any brains at all, they will tie your asses up in court for who knows how long. And they will be right in doing that.

Listen, I WANT same sex marriage. I've been fighting for it since before some your friends were even around the Capitol, Clayton. But you know what? This thing has all the marks of being written by folks with other agendae. Like for one, maybe some folks have no use for churches and preachers and they want to "stick it" to the religious types by using this bill.

That's probably a good idea whose time has come. But stay the hell away from that issue with this bill if that's what you wanna do!

If that's how you wanna play it, I think we're gonna get killed.

First, is there anyone up there who knows what the hell the difference is between for-profit and non-profit? Huh? Churches are non-profit. Churches who wanna use their building to host weddings for a fee are STILL non-profit, you idiots. I've been to three of those weddings. And I know one of the preachers.

When someone uses the place for a wedding, they give the church $100 or $400 or whatevahs. And the church takes that money and runs it into their funds…for operating, for improvements, or whatever they want. It's just like their offerings they get from members on Sundays.

Now the couple having the wedding gets no tax deduction for paying the fee - because they're getting services in return. But the church can use the funds exactly the same way it uses the other funds. Those monies are not distributed to stockholders or pocketed as "profit" for anyone. I know, because my minister friend told me. That's NON-PROFIT!

The other STUPID ASS thing you are doing is that when you hit on these churches that do weddings, you're usually messing with the very same damn churches who support YOU and support SAME SEX marriage!! Lolos! Don't you know that the number one churches in town who have these wedding factory things going on are like Kawaiahao, Central Union, Makiki Christian, Judd Street United Church of Christ, St. Andrews, Nuuanu Congregational? Every last one of them are either Episcopalian or United Church of Christ. Those two were the first denominations who came out and said, "For sure, we will do same sex marriages." They're FOR you; not against you!

They're ON YOUR SIDE dumb okoles! They aren't fundamentalist Bible thumper-kine churches. And here you are - ~~Aloha~~ biting the hand that feeds you.

Please take a few days to clean up the shit in these bills right away. If you want to tell the churches to go to hell, do that another time. It would make me puke to see this bill go down in the sewer after all these because some morons keep pecking around with "church" language.

Just get it out of there and do all that shit another day.

Please.

Thank you.

Renald Takeshita

To: The Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: Second Special Session of 2013 to held on Monday, 10/28/13: Testimony

I am writing to ask that you uphold the integrity of marriage as it originated historically which virtually had nothing to do with religion or love (Foladare, 2011, p. 7). Marriage was considered an obligatory arrangement that ensured the succession of biological lineage. The other issue to gravely consider is the obvious discrimination that will result, develop, and fester subsequent to passing this legislation. This decision, if passed, will be like an automatic spark that will ignite harmful hostility that our innocent children will be victim of in the crossfire. As the state wants to conform to the rest of the world, pushing it into this direction will work against the integrity of life here in the islands. What will happen when people who engage in bisexuality desire to marry multiple partners? This sounds extreme yet the possibility becomes increasingly probable of veering into a tangent that could easily grow out of control.

I appreciate your help and ask that you vote against the marriage equality bill.

Thank you for your time and considering my request.

Reference

Foladare, L. (2011). The alchemy of divorce: Embracing the journey from heartbreak to hope. Retrieved from http://books.google.com/books?id=BcJSevhMzA0C&pg=PA7&lpg=PA7&dq=the+first+recorded+marriage+in+2350+bc&source=bl&ots=vPxpMQItep&sig=EJG8iiLyTwxvqVwh5vaQT60MmKQ&hl=en&sa=X&ei=811lUurAKamZiAKa8IGgDw&ved=0CH8Q6AEwCQ#v=onepage&q=the%20first%20recorded%20marriage%20in%202350%20bc&f=false

PRO-FAMILY HAWAII

P.O. Box 25158
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

October 23, 2013

Testimony for Senate Judiciary Hearing
in Capitol Auditorium at 10:30 a.m. October 28
by Daniel P. McGivern, President

Sodom was destroyed for sodomy, a great abomination.

Those who are gay said all they wanted was civil unions. It was a lie. Now they say all they want is marriage. It's another lie.

They want to corrupt the young minds of our children and grandchildren in public schools. It's already happening in other states. Any Senator or Representative who votes for this bill is saying to the public--all the people of Hawaii--he or she doesn't give a damn what is taught in public grade, middle and high schools in Hawaii.

It's already happening in other states. In Massachusetts, a U.S. District judge said this is the norm now, and said the plaintiffs have to teach their child at home or place the child in a private school, to avoid the plague of teaching about homosexuality and lesbians to the children. The only thing that can stop this is a NO vote or an abstention by you legislators. Say no to Governor Abercrombie and Blake Oshiro, who are pushing this bill. Stand up for righteousness.

Daniel P. McGivern, President
Pro-Family Hawaii

Also supported by member Andrew J. Gerakas,
Chairman of Aloha Family Alliance

IT'S MORE THAN JUST NUMBERS

G. Keoki Wallace

P.O. Box 807
Hau'ula, Hawai'i 96717
(808) 270-5058
kwallace@itsmorethanjustnumbers.com

The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 407
415 S Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Please Vote NO to Governor Abercrombie's Special Session

Dear Mr. Hee,

Any law that proposes to change the fundamental principles of marriage in Hawaii deserves to be carefully drafted and considered. Such a law would change fundamental cultural and economic relationships. It is my belief that such immense, societal changes should not be made without careful consideration of all the social and economic impacts, intended and unintended, such legislation would create…especially unintended impacts on established religion.

I believe that Governor Abercrombie's tactic to have this issue determined at a Special Session is fundamentally flawed. This forum does not give the Hawaii Legislature the time to fully debate, analyze and discuss the proposal in order to ensure that unintended impacts are not created.

Regardless of your own personal beliefs on this subject, I feel that it is imperative that you, as my elected official, stand up against the Governor's personal political agenda and that you do what you are elected to do, which is to carefully consider, analyze, research and debate laws through established, normal procedure, especially laws like this that will forever change deep seated cultural and economic rights.

Please vote NO.

I want to make it very clear that I do not support same-sex marriage. However, if it is to be the law of this land, it should be properly enacted through the normal legislative process, after ensuring unintended effects will not be created.

Sincerely,

G. Keoki Wallace

Edward McGlynn Gaffney, Jr.
Valparaiso University School of Law
656 S. Greenwich Street
Valparaiso, IN 46383
219.465.7860

October 17, 2013

Senator Clayton Hee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 407
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Religious Liberty Implications of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear Senator Hee:

Aloha! Aware of the historic role played by your State in the national discussion on marriage equality, we recognize that it is highly likely that you and your colleagues in the Hawaiian State Legislature will enact legislation legalizing same-sex marriage. We write as professors of constitutional law to urge you to ensure that any bill legalizing same-sex marriage maintains respect for the religious liberty of individuals and organizations that have a traditional view of marriage. Providing religious protections in any same-sex marriage bill honors America's long and rich tradition of religious freedom.

With the possible exception of Mr. Trump, no mainlander needs to remind you that President Obama is a Hawaiian. At this moment in our history, however, it might be helpful for you to hear from law professors who have grown up in the mainland that our president spoke for all of us—the signatories are Democrats and Republicans, Protestants and Catholics—when he stated on the day the Supreme Court overturned the Defense of Marriage Act last June:

> I've directed the Attorney General to work with other members of my Cabinet to review all relevant federal statutes to ensure this decision, including its implications for Federal benefits and obligations, is implemented swiftly and smoothly. On an issue as sensitive as this, knowing that Americans hold a wide range of views based on deeply held beliefs, maintaining our nation's commitment to religious freedom is also vital. How religious institutions define and consecrate marriage has always been up to those institutions. Nothing about this decision – which applies only to civil marriages – changes that.

We echo President Obama's view that it is possible to achieve marriage equality without violating our nation's vital commitment to religious freedom. In this letter we urge you to consider our view that the current version of the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 comes up short in this regard. And we offer you a friendly amendment that can turn this moment into a win-win situation for all Hawaiians, of all faiths and none.

The contentious debate in Maryland, New York, Delaware, and elsewhere surrounding same-sex marriage proves the wisdom of constructive, good-faith attempts both to grant legal recognition to same-sex marriage *and* to protect religious liberty for conscientious objectors.[1]

This letter analyzes the potential effects of same-sex marriage on religious conscience in Hawaii and proposes a solution to address the conflicts: a specific religious liberty amendment that should be an integral part of any legislation. This proposed amendment clarifies that individuals and organizations may refuse to provide services for a wedding if doing so would violate deeply held beliefs, while ensuring that the refusal creates no undue hardship for the couple seeking the service. We write not to support or oppose same-sex marriage in Hawaii. Rather, our aim is to define a "middle way" to address the needs of same-sex couples while honoring and respecting religious liberty.[2]

As this letter details, the conflicts between same-sex marriage and religious conscience will be both certain and considerable if adequate protections are not provided. Without safeguards, many religious individuals will be forced to engage in conduct that violates their deepest religious beliefs, and religious organizations will be constrained in crucial aspects of their religious exercise. We urge the Hawaii State Legislature to take the time and care to ensure that the legalization of same-sex marriage does not restrict the inalienable right of religious liberty. Doing so is entirely consistent with the text of the Hawaii State Constitution that each member of the State Legislature has sworn to uphold and protect. Since its adoption in 1950 and ratification in 1959, the Hawaii Constitution has always protected religious freedom in the strongest of terms.[3]

Part A of this letter proposes a specific religious conscience amendment that will defuse the vast majority of conflicts between same-sex marriage and religious liberty. Part B provides examples of precedent for the protection we propose. Part C details the sorts of legal conflicts that will arise if same-sex marriage is legalized without reasonable protections for religious liberty. Finally, Part D explains the need for robust religious liberty protections, now lacking in the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

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[1] Appendix A below summarizes the core religious liberty protections afforded by jurisdictions that currently recognize same-sex marriage by legislation.

[2] While we have a range of views on the underlying issue of same-sex marriage, we wholeheartedly share the belief that when same-sex marriage is recognized, it should be accompanied by corresponding protections for religious liberty.

[3] *See* HAW. CONST. art. 1, § 4 ("No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof[.]"); HAW. CONST. art. 1, § 5 ("No person shall be . . . denied the enjoyment of the person's civil rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof because of race, religion, sex or ancestry.").

A. Proposed Religious Conscience Protection

The conflicts between same-sex marriage and religious liberty are avoidable.[4] But they are avoidable only if the Hawaii State Legislature takes the time and effort to craft the "robust religious-conscience exceptions" to same-sex marriage that leading voices on both sides of the public debate over same-sex marriage are calling for.[5]

Any proposed marriage bill can provide reasonable, carefully tailored protections for religious conscience by including a simple "marriage conscience protection" modeled, in part, on existing conscience protections in Hawaii's nondiscrimination laws, which provide important but limited religious liberty protections.[6] The "marriage conscience protection" we propose is as follows:

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[4] *See, e.g.*, Douglas Laycock, *Afterword* in SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: EMERGING CONFLICTS, Douglas Laycock, Anthony R. Picarello, Jr. & Robin Fretwell Wilson, eds. 191-97 (Rowman & Littlefield 2008) [hereinafter Laycock] (detailing the scope of "avoidable" and "unavoidable" conflicts).

[5] *See* David Blankenhorn & Jonathan Rauch, *A Reconciliation on Gay Marriage*, N.Y. TIMES, Feb. 22, 2009, at WK11, *available at* http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/22/opinion/ 22rauch.html?_r=1 (arguing for recognition of same-sex unions together with religious conscience protections). Though conscience protections should also extend to existing civil unions, we do not address civil unions here.

[6] *See, e.g.*, HAW. CONST. art. 1, § 5 ("No person shall be . . . denied the enjoyment of the person's civil rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof because of race, religion, sex or ancestry."); HAW. REV. STAT. § 378-3(5) (2012) ("Nothing in this part [governing employment practices] shall be deemed to . . . [p]rohibit or prevent any religious or denominational institution or organization, or any organization operated for charitable or educational purposes, that is operated, supervised or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization, from giving preference to individuals of the same religion or from making a selection calculated to promote the religious principles for which the organization is established or maintained[.]"); HAW. REV. STAT. § 515-8 (2012) ("It is not a discriminatory practice for a religious institution or organization or a charitable or educational organization operated, supervised, or controlled by a religious institution or organization to give preference to members of the same religion in a real property transaction, unless membership in such religion is restricted on account of race, color, or ancestry."). Haw. Rev. Stat. § 515-4 (b) "Nothing in section 515-3 shall be deemed to prohibit refusal, because of sex, including gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or marital status, to rent or lease housing accommodations: (1) Owned or operated by a religious institution and used for church purposes as that term is used in applying exemptions for real property taxes; or (2) Which are part of a religiously affiliated institution of higher education housing program which is operated on property that the institution owns or controls, or which is operated for its students pursuant to Title IX of the Higher Education Act of 1972."). For analysis of why these exemptions are insufficient to address the full range of developing conflicts over marriage, see *infra* pp. 19-20.

Section ___

(a) Religious organizations protected.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no religious or denominational organization, no organization operated for charitable or educational purposes which is supervised or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization, and no individual employed by any of the foregoing organizations, while acting in the scope of that employment, shall be required to

(1) provide services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges for a purpose related to the solemnization or celebration of any marriage; or

(2) solemnize any marriage; or

(3) treat as valid any marriage

if such providing, solemnizing, or treating as valid would cause such organizations or individuals to violate their sincerely held religious beliefs. This subsection shall not permit a religious organization engaged in the provision of health care, or its individual employees, to refuse to treat a state-recognized marriage as valid for purposes of a spouse's rights to visitation or to surrogate health care decision making.

(b) Individuals and small businesses protected.

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(2), no individual, sole proprietor, or small business shall be required to

(A) provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage; or

(B) provide benefits to any spouse of an employee; or

(C) provide housing to any married couple

if providing such goods, services, benefits, or housing would cause such individuals or sole proprietors, or owners of such small businesses, to violate their sincerely held religious beliefs.

(2) Paragraph (b)(1) shall not apply if

(A) a party to the marriage is unable to obtain any similar good or services, employment benefits, or housing elsewhere without substantial hardship; or

(B) in the case of an individual who is a government employee or official, if another government employee or official is not promptly available and willing to provide the requested government service without inconvenience or delay; *provided that* no judicial officer authorized to solemnize marriages shall be required to solemnize any marriage if to do so would violate the judicial officer's sincerely held religious beliefs.

(3) A "small business" within the meaning of paragraph (b)(1) is a legal entity other than a natural person

(A) that provides services which are primarily performed by an owner of the business; or

(B) that has five or fewer employees; or

(C) in the case of a legal entity that offers housing for rent, that owns five or fewer units of housing.

(c) No civil cause of action or other penalties.

No refusal to provide services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges protected by this section shall

(1) result in a civil claim or cause of action challenging such refusal; or

(2) result in any action by the State or any of its subdivisions to penalize or withhold benefits from any protected entity or individual, under any laws of this State or its subdivisions, including but not limited to laws regarding employment discrimination, housing, public accommodations, educational institutions, licensing, government contracts or grants, or tax-exempt status.[7]

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[7] Some have expressed concern that the proposed text would permit objections to interracial marriage. Although such objections are likely to be rare, if not non-existent, this concern is readily addressed by a simple proviso that would read: "Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions, this section does not change any provision of law with respect to discrimination on the basis of race."

This proposed amendment has several important benefits. First, this text parallels existing protections in Hawaii's nondiscrimination laws for a "religious or denominational institution or organization, or any organization operated for charitable or educational purposes, that is operated, supervised or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization."[8] The text also significantly mirrors, in part, the express protections provided in the Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington same-sex marriage laws for religious organizations. Many of these laws protect, among other things, the conscientious refusal "to provide services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges . . . related to the solemnization of a marriage."[9]

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[8] *See* HAW. REV. STAT. § 378-3(5) (2012) ("Nothing in this part shall be deemed to . . . [p]rohibit or prevent any religious or denominational institution or organization, or any organization operated for charitable or educational purposes, that is operated, supervised or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization, from giving preference to individuals of the same religion or from making a selection calculated to promote the religious principles for which the organization is established or maintained[.]"). *See also* HAW. REV. STAT. § 515-8 (2012) ("It is not a discriminatory practice for a religious institution or organization or a charitable or educational organization operated, supervised, or controlled by a religious institution or organization to give preference to members of the same religion in a real property transaction, unless membership in such religion is restricted on account of race, color, or ancestry.").

[9] *See* CONN. PUBLIC ACT NO. 09-13 (2009) §§ 17-19, *available at* http://www.cga.ct.gov/2009/ACT/PA/2009PA-00013-R00SB-00899-PA.htm (exempting religious organizations from "provid[ing] services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges . . . related to" the "solemnization" or "celebration" of a marriage, and providing separate exemptions for religious adoption agencies and fraternal benefit societies); 79 DEL. LAWS 2013, ch. 19, § 8 ("Religious Freedom. Nothing in this Act is intended to, nor shall this Act be construed in a manner that would, violate any person's rights under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or § 1, § 2, or § 5 of Article 1 of the Constitution of this State, including protected rights of freedom of religion thereunder. Nothing in this Act shall interfere with or regulate the religious practice of any religious society. Any religious society is free to choose which marriages it will solemnize."; see DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 13, § 106 (West 2012); Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act of 2009, D.C. LAW NO. L18-0110 (enacted Dec. 18, 2009, effective Mar. 3, 2010), *available at* http://www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us/ lims/legisation.aspx?LegNo=B18-0482 (exempting religious societies and religiously affiliated non-profits from providing "accommodations, facilities, or goods for a purpose related to the solemnization or celebration of a same-sex marriage, or the promotion of same-sex marriage through religious programs, counseling, courses, or retreats..."); MD. CODE ANN., Note: FAM. LAW §§ 2-201, 2-202 (2012), 2012 Maryland Laws Ch. 2 (H.B. 438) § 2-3 (exempting religious organizations from the "solemnization of a marriage or celebration of a marriage that is in violation of the entity's religious beliefs" or "the promotion of marriage through any social or religious programs or services, in violation of the entity's religious beliefs"); MINN. STAT. ANN. § 363A.26 (West 2013) (providing that a religious organization need not take "any action with respect to the provision of goods, services, facilities, or accommodations directly related to the solemnization or celebration of a civil marriage that is in violation of its religious beliefs."); N.H. REV. STAT. § 457:37 (exempting religious organizations from "provid[ing] services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges . . . related to" the "solemnization," "celebration," or "promotion" of a marriage); N.Y. DOM. REL. LAW § 10-b (1) (2011) ("a religious entity . . . benevolent [order] . . . or a not-for-profit corporation operated, supervised, or controlled by a religious corporation . . . shall not be required to provide services,

Second, this model provision addresses the primary areas of Hawaii law where the refusal to treat a marriage as valid is likely to result in liability, penalty, or denial of government benefits ("laws regarding employment discrimination, housing, public accommodations, educational institutions, licensing, government contracts or grants, or tax-exempt status").

Third, this text provides protection only when providing services related to a marriage, solemnizing a marriage, or being forced to treat a marriage as valid would "violate . . . sincerely held religious beliefs." This phrase is drawn from numerous court cases discussing the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and ensures that the religious conscience protections will apply only to a "violation" of "sincere" beliefs that are "religious"—not to situations that merely make religious people uncomfortable, not to insincere beliefs asserted as a pretext for discrimination, and not to non-religious moral beliefs.

Fourth, this text provides vital protections in subsection (b) for individuals of religiously informed conscience who own sole proprietorships and small businesses. We explain the need for such protection in Parts C and D below.

Finally, this model provision recognizes that religious accommodations might not be without cost for same-sex couples, such as the need to find a different wedding photographer or caterer if their original choice must decline for reasons of conscience. In order to address this issue, paragraph (b)(2) ensures that a same-sex couple can obtain the service, even from conscientious objectors, when the inability to find a similar service elsewhere would impose a substantial hardship on the couple. But because this hardship exception could force organizations or individuals to violate their religious beliefs, it should be available only in cases of substantial hardship, not mere inconvenience or symbolic harm. Paragraph (b)(2)(B) also ensures that no government employee or official (such as a county clerk) may act as a choke point on the path to marriage. So, for example, no government employee can refuse on grounds of conscience to issue a marriage license unless another government employee is promptly available and willing to do so. These sorts of override protections are common in other laws protecting the right of conscientious objection, especially in the health care context.[10]

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accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges for the solemnization or celebration of a marriage"); R.I. GEN. LAWS ANN. § 15-3-6.1 (West 2013)(exempting religious organizations from "provid[ing] services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges to an individual if the request for such services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges is related to [t]he solemnization of a marriage or the celebration of a marriage, and such solemnization or celebration is in violation of its religious beliefs and faith; or ... the promotion of marriage rough any social or religious programs or services, which violates the religious doctrine or teachings of religious organization, association or society"); 9 VT. STAT. ANN. § 4502(l) (2009) (exempting religious organizations from "provid[ing] services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges . . . related to" the "solemnization" or "celebration" of a marriage); WASH. REV. CODE § 26.04.010(2)(5) (providing that religious organizations need not "provide accommodations, facilities, advantages, privileges, services, or goods related to the solemnization or celebration of a marriage").

[10] *See, e.g.*, IOWA CODE § 146.1 (2005) ("An individual who may lawfully perform, assist, or participate in medical procedures which will result in an abortion shall not be required against that individual's religious

B. Precedent for Religious Conscience Protections

There is ample precedent for the type of conscience protection we propose. As noted above, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington have already enacted religious exemptions as part of their legislation recognizing same-sex marriage.[11] Similarly, Hawaii's existing nondiscrimination laws on employment and housing provide a categorical exemption for religious organizations in certain circumstances.[12] And federal nondiscrimination statutes provide protection for religious and conscientious objectors in many different contexts.[13] In short, protecting religious conscience is very much a part of America's and Hawaii's tradition. We urge the Hawaii State Legislature to continue its historic commitment to a "middle way" accommodation of interests.

The religious conscience protection that we have proposed would alleviate the vast majority of the conflicts between same-sex marriage and religious liberty, while still allowing for equality of treatment and respect for same-sex marriages. It has ample precedent in both Hawaiian and federal law. And it represents the best in the American and Hawaiian constitutional tradition of protecting the inalienable right of conscience.

C. Conflicts Between Same-Sex Marriage and Religious Liberty

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beliefs or moral convictions to perform, assist, or participate in such procedures. . . . Abortion does not include medical care which has as its primary purpose the treatment of a serious physical condition requiring emergency medical treatment necessary to save the life of a mother."); S.C. CODE ANN. §§ 44-41-40 (2002) ("No private or non-governmental hospital or clinic shall be required . . . to permit their facilities to be utilized for the performance of abortions; *provided*, that no hospital or clinic shall refuse an emergency admittance."); TEX. OCC. CODE ANN. § 103.004 (Vernon 2004) ("A private hospital or private health care facility is not required to make its facilities available for the performance of abortion *unless* a physician determines that the life of the mother is immediately endangered.") (emphasis added).

[11] *See* note 9 above and Appendix A below.

[12] *See* HAW. REV. STAT. § 378-3 (1998) ("Nothing in this part shall be deemed to . . . [p]rohibit or prevent any religious or denominational institution or organization, or any organization operated for charitable or educational purposes, that is operated, supervised or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization, from giving preference to individuals of the same religion or from making a selection calculated to promote the religious principles for which the organization is established or maintained[.]");HAW. REV. STAT. § 515-8 (2012) ("It is not a discriminatory practice for a religious institution or organization or a charitable or educational organization operated, supervised, or controlled by a religious institution or organization to give preference to members of the same religion in a real property transaction, unless membership in such religion is restricted on account of race, color, or ancestry.").

[13] *See, e.g.*, 32 C.F.R. § 1630.11 (accommodating conscientious objectors to military service); 42 U.S.C. § 300a-7 (accommodating health care professionals who conscientiously object to participating in medical procedures such as abortion or sterilization); 42 U.S.C. § 2000bb *et seq.* (Religious Freedom Restoration Act lifts federal-created burdens on religious exercise).

In the only book-length comprehensive scholarly work on same-sex marriage and religious liberty,[14] legal scholars on both sides of the same-sex marriage debate agreed that codifying same-sex marriage ***without*** providing robust religious accommodations will create widespread and unnecessary legal conflicts—conflicts that will work a "sea change in American law" and will "reverberate across the legal and religious landscape."[15] The conflicts between religious conscience and same-sex marriage generally take one of two forms. First, if same-sex marriage is legalized without appropriate statutory accommodations, religious organizations and individuals that object to same-sex marriage will face new lawsuits under the existing state nondiscrimination acts and other similar laws. So will many small businesses owned by individual conscientious objectors. Likely lawsuits include claims where:

- Individuals of conscience, who run a small business, such as wedding photographers, florists, banquet halls, or making wedding cakes in one's home, can be sued under public accommodations laws for refusing to offer their services in connection with a same-sex marriage ceremony.[16]

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[14] SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: EMERGING CONFLICTS, Douglas Laycock, Anthony R. Picarello, Jr. & Robin Fretwell Wilson, eds. (Rowman & Littlefield 2008) (including contributions from both supporters and opponents of same-sex marriage). *See* Thomas Berg, *What Same-Sex-Marriage and Religious-Liberty Claims Have in Common*, 5 NW. J.L. & SOC. POL'Y 206 (2010); Marc D. Stern, *Liberty v. Equality; Equality v. Liberty*, 5 NW. J. L. & SOC. POL'Y 307 (2010); Robin Fretwell Wilson, *Insubstantial Burdens: The Case for Government Employee Exemptions to Same-Sex Marriage Laws*, 5 Nw. J. L. & Soc. Pol'y 318 (2010).

[15] Marc Stern, *Same-Sex Marriage and the Churches in* SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: EMERGING CONFLICTS, Douglas Laycock, Anthony R. Picarello, Jr. & Robin Fretwell Wilson, eds. (Rowman & Littlefield 2008) at 1 [hereinafter "Stern"]. *See also* Laycock at 191-7 (detailing the scope of "avoidable" and "unavoidable" conflicts); Robin Fretwell Wilson, *The Calculus of Accommodation: Contraception, Abortion, Same-Sex Marriage, and Other Clashes between Religion and the State*, 53 B.C. L. REV. 1417 (2012) *available at* http://scholarlycommons.law.wlu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1130&context=wlufac.

[16] *See* HAW. REV. STAT. § 489-3 (2012) ("Unfair discriminatory practices that deny, or attempt to deny, a person the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations of a place of public accommodation on the basis of race, sex, including gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, color, religion, ancestry, or disability are prohibited."); *Elane Photography LLC v. Willock*, 309 P.3d 53 (N.M. Aug. 22, 2013) (New Mexico photographer fined for refusing on religious grounds to photograph a same-sex commitment ceremony); Stern at 37-39; *see also Issues Brief: Same-Sex Marriage and State Anti-Discrimination Laws* at 3-5, *available at* http://www.becketfund.org/files/34a97.pdf_ [hereinafter "Issues Brief"]; Alyssa Newcomb, *Bakery Denies Same-Sex Couple Wedding Cake*, ABC NEWS Feb. 2, 2013 *available at* http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/business/2013/02/bakery-denies-same-sex-couple-wedding-cake/.

- Religious day care centers, counseling centers, meeting halls, and adoption agencies could be sued under public accommodations laws for refusing to offer their facilities or services to members of a same-sex marriage.[17]

- A church or other religious nonprofit that dismisses an employee for entering into a same-sex marriage can be sued under employment discrimination laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of marital status.[18]

The second form of conflict involving religious organizations and individuals (or the small businesses that they own) that conscientiously object to same-sex marriage is that they will be labeled unlawful "discriminators" under state or municipal laws and thus face a range of penalties at the hand of state agencies and local governments, such as the withdrawal of government contracts or exclusion from government facilities. For example:

- A religious college, hospital, or social service organization that refuses to provide its employees with same-sex spousal benefits can be denied access to government contracts or grants on the ground that it is engaging in discrimination that contravenes public policy.[19]

- A religious charity or fraternal organization that opposes same-sex marriage can be denied access to government facilities, such as a lease on government property or participation in a government-sponsored employee charitable campaign.[20]

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[17] *Bernstein v. Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Ass'n*, Num. OAL Dkt. No. CRT 6145-09 (Off. of Admin. Law decision issued January 12, 2012.) *available at* http://www.adfmedia.org/files/OGCMA-BernsteinRuling.pdf) (finding that a Methodist organization likely violated public accommodations law by denying same-sex couples use of its wedding pavilion); *Butler v. Adoption Media*, 486 F. Supp.2d 1022 (N.D. Cal. 2007) (administrators of Arizona adoption facilitation website found subject to California's public accommodations statute because they refused to post profiles of same-sex couples as potential adoptive parents); *see also* Stern at 37-39; Robin Fretwell Wilson, *A Matter of Conviction: Moral Clashes Over Same-Sex Adoption*, 22 BYU J. PUB. L. 475 (2008) (describing clashes over adoption by same-sex couples).

[18] *See* HAW. REV. STAT. § 378-2(a)(1)(2012) ("It shall be an unlawful discriminatory practice . . . [b]ecause of race, sex, including gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, color, ancestry, disability, marital status, arrest and court record, or domestic or sexual violence victim status if the domestic or sexual violence victim provides notice to the victim's employer of such status or the employer has actual knowledge of such status[.]"); Stern at 48-52; Issues Brief at 3-5.

[19] *See Catholic Charities of Maine v. City of Portland*, 304 F. Supp.2d 77 (D. Me. 2004) (upholding ordinance forcing religious charity either to extend employee spousal benefit programs to registered same-sex couples, or to lose access to all city housing and community development funds); Don Lattin, *Charities Balk at Domestic Partner, Open Meeting Laws*, S.F. CHRON., July 10, 1998, at A-1 (describing how the Salvation Army lost $3.5 million in social service contracts with the City of San Francisco because it refused, on religious grounds, to provide benefits to the same-sex partners of its employees).

[20] *See Evans v. City of Berkeley*, 38 Cal.4th 1 (Cal. App. 2006) (affirming revocation of a boat berth subsidy at public marina due to Boy Scouts' exclusion of atheist and openly gay members); *Boy Scouts of*

- Doctors, psychologists, social workers, counselors, and other professionals who conscientiously object to same-sex marriage can have their licenses revoked.[21]

- Religious fraternal organizations or other nonprofits that object to same-sex marriage can be denied food service licenses, adoption agency licenses, child care licenses, or liquor licenses on the ground that they are engaged in unlawful discrimination.[22]

- Religious colleges and professional schools can have their accreditation revoked for refusing to recognize the validity of same-sex marriages.[23]

- Church-affiliated organizations can have their tax exempt status stripped because of their conscientious objection to same-sex marriage.[24]

America v. Wyman, 335 F.3d 80 (2d Cir. 2003) (holding that the Boy Scouts may be excluded from the state's employee charitable contributions campaign for denying membership to openly gay individuals).

[21] *See* Stern at 22-24 (noting that a refusal to provide counseling services to same-sex couples could be "considered a breach of professional standards and therefore grounds for the loss of a professional license"); *see also* Patricia Wen, *"They Cared for the Children": Amid Shifting Social Winds, Catholic Charities Prepares to End Its 103 Years of Finding Homes for Foster Children and Evolving Families*, BOSTON GLOBE, June 25, 2006, at A1 (explaining how Massachusetts threatened to revoke the adoption license of Catholic Charities for refusing on religious grounds to place foster children with same-sex couples); Robin Fretwell Wilson, *A Matter of Conviction: Moral Clashes Over Same-Sex Adoption*, 22 BYU J. PUB. L. 475 (2008) (describing dismissals and resignations of social services workers where conscience protections were not available).

[22] *See* 489 Haw. Atty. Gen. Opinion No. 91-01 (Jan. 3, 1991), 1991 WL 489765 (responding that a holder of a class 5 liquor license ("Dispensers' licenses, which authorize licensees to sell specified liquors for consumption on the premises") is subject to Haw. Stat. Ann. § 489's nondiscrimination provisions "since establishments holding class 5 licenses are explicitly included in the definition of the term 'place of public accommodation'"); Stern at 19-22 (noting that many state regulators condition licenses on compliance with nondiscrimination requirements).

[23] *See* Stern at 23 (describing how religiously affiliated law schools have unsuccessfully challenged diversity standards imposed by the American Bar Association as a condition of accreditation); D. Smith, *Accreditation Committee Decides to Keep Religious Exemption*, 33 MONITOR ON PSYCHOLOGY 1 (Jan. 2002) (describing a proposal of the American Psychology Association to revoke the accreditation of religious colleges and universities that have codes of conduct forbidding homosexual behavior), *available at* http://www.apa.org/monitor/jan02/exemption.html.

[24] *See* Jill P. Capuzzo, *Group Loses Tax Break Over Gay Union Issue*, N.Y. TIMES, Sept. 18, 2007 (describing the case of *Bernstein v. Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Ass'n*, in which New Jersey revoked the property tax exemption of a beach-side pavilion controlled by an historic Methodist organization, because it refused on religious grounds to host a same-sex civil union ceremony); Douglas W. Kmiec, *Same-Sex Marriage and the Coming Antidiscrimination Campaigns Against Religion* in SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: EMERGING CONFLICTS 107-21 (describing attacks on tax exemptions for religious organizations with objections to same-sex marriage); Jonathan Turley, *An Unholy Union* in SAME-SEX

All of these conflicts either did not exist before, or will intensify after, the legalization of same-sex marriage. Thus, legalizing same-sex marriage without new adequate protections for religious liberty will have at least two unintended consequences: It will harm religious organizations and individuals of conscience, *and it will spawn costly, unnecessary conflicts, many of which will lead to litigation.*[25]

D. The Need for Robust Religious Liberty Protection

The Act known as the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, most recently revised September 9, 2013, seeks to enact same-sex marriage in Hawaii. This bill fails to provide sufficient protections for religious conscience. Sections 572-F and G currently read as follows:

> **§ 572-F Refusal to solemnize a marriage.** Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require any minister, priest, officer of any religious denomination or society, or religious society not having clergy but providing solemnizations that is authorized to perform solemnizations pursuant to this chapter to solemnize any marriage, and no such minister, priest, officer of any religious denomination or society, or religious society not having clergy that fails or refuses for any reason to solemnize any marriage under this section shall be subject to fine, penalty, or other civil action for the failure or refusal.
>
> **§ 572-G Religious organizations and facilities; liability exemption under certain circumstances.** (a) A religious organization shall not be required to make a religious facility owned or leased by the religious organization available for solemnization of a particular marriage; provided that: (1) The religious facility is regularly used by the religious organization for its religious purposes; (2) For solemnization of marriages pursuant to this chapter, the religious organization restricts use of the religious facility to its members; (3) The religious organization

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MARRIAGE AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: EMERGING CONFLICTS 59-76 (arguing for same-sex marriage but against withdrawal of tax exemptions for religious organizations with conscientious objections).

[25] Filed lawsuits are often just the tip of the iceberg with respect to conflicts over a given law and a claimed right. Most conflicts get resolved before a suit is filed and comes to the attention of the public. Some employers will back down when suit is threatened. Others will pay a settlement and walk away. Some employers will be quietly "chilled" even though they would prefer another course of action. What matters is the number of conflicts rather than the number of lawsuits. These data are not available, however, and so cannot be empirically studied. Nonetheless, there need only be a few conflicts for there to be a crisis of conscience. Each conflict is a profound violation of religious liberty. Moreover, even assuming that there are a small number of actual conflicts (as some critics claim), then there will be a correspondingly few number of same-sex couples affected by the religious exemptions we recommend. Finally, discrimination lawsuits often increase dramatically over time, so an important question is how many lawsuits against conscientious objectors will be filed 20 years from now. *See, e.g.*, Vivian Berger *et al.*, *Summary Judgment Benchmarks for Settling Employment Discrimination Lawsuits*, 23 HOFSTRA LAB. & EMP. L.J. 45, 45 (2005) ("The number of employment discrimination lawsuits rose continuously throughout the last three decades of the twentieth century. In the federal courts, such filings grew 2000% . . . .").

> does not operate the religious facility as a for-profit business. (b) A religious organization that refuses to make a religious facility available for solemnization of a marriage under subsection (a) shall not be subject to any fine, penalty, injunction, administrative proceeding, or civil liability for the refusal. (c) Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted to exempt the owner or operator of any religious facility from the requirements of chapter 489 if the religious facility is a place of public accommodation as defined in section 489-2.

As explained below, this proposed legislation would provide less protection for religious liberty than every other state that has successfully enacted same-sex marriage legislation.

Consider first the ersatz protection received by individual clergy. Individual clergy who refuse to perform same-sex marriage receive no meaningful protection because they are already protected by the U.S. Constitution. Indeed, with or without this language, "[n]o one seriously believes that clergy will be forced, or even asked, to perform marriages that are anathema to them."[26] Focusing on the issue of "forced officiating" is a straw-man argument calculated to distract the uninformed from real situations where religious conscience is at risk.

Like the ersatz protection received by individual clergy, religious organizations receive very narrow and largely illusory protection. Specifically, § 572-G exempts a religious organization from holding the wedding only if the organization "restricts use of the facility to its members."[27] This provision could be read to mean generally or usually restricts, but it does not specifically include this limitation. It is not uncommon, however, for many religious organizations to open their facilities to weddings that include a non-member. Such facilities, then, would receive no protections.

Furthermore, § 572-G provides an exemption only if the facility is regularly used for religious purposes and not as a for-profit business. Finally, § 572-G removes any protection if the religious facility is a place of public accommodation. The latter introduces considerable uncertainty given the fact that the definition of public accommodation does not on its face appear to encompass the properties owned by churches or other religious organizations.[28] Moreover, in

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[26] Stern at 1.

[27] Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 § 572-G(2) (Haw. 2013) (proposed).

[28] HAW. REV. STAT. § 489-2 (West) ("'Place of public accommodation' means a business, accommodation, refreshment, entertainment, recreation, or transportation facility of any kind whose goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations are extended, offered, sold, or otherwise made available to the general public as customers, clients, or visitors. By way of example, but not of limitation, place of public accommodation includes facilities of the following types: (1) A facility providing services relating to travel or transportation; (2) An inn, hotel, motel, or other establishment that provides lodging to transient guests; (3) A restaurant, cafeteria, lunchroom, lunch counter, soda fountain, or other facility principally engaged in selling food for consumption on the premises of a retail establishment; (4) A shopping center or any establishment that sells goods or services at retail; (5) An establishment licensed under chapter 281 doing business under a class 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12 license, as defined in section 281-31; (6) A motion picture theater, other theater, auditorium, convention center,

other jurisdictions, it is rare for a church to be considered a place of public accommodation.[29] If a religious facility is not a place of public accommodation, there is a good chance that no law applies to the religious facility—in which case the exemption for religious facilities is wholly illusory. In short, the proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013 lacks any meaningful accommodation as drafted.

What the proposed legislation leaves out is considerable:

- It provides no protection to religious organizations from the loss of government benefits for refusing to recognize a same-sex marriage.
- It provides no protection for individual objectors other than a minister, priest, or other officer of a religious denomination or society.
- It provides no protection to religious organizations from private lawsuits brought under Hawaii's nondiscrimination laws other than for refusal to solemnize a marriage.

This proposed legislation is lacking as the following subparts explain in detail.

a. No Protection from Government Penalty for Certain Actions

A good deal of misunderstanding surrounds religious liberty accommodations. Accommodations serve the important function of protecting conscientious objectors from private lawsuits. But accommodations also serve the purpose of insulating conscientious objectors from penalties at the hands of the government.[30]

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lecture hall, concert hall, sports arena, stadium, or other place of exhibition or entertainment; (7) A barber shop, beauty shop, bathhouse, swimming pool, gymnasium, reducing or massage salon, or other establishment conducted to serve the health, appearance, or physical condition of persons; (8) A park, a campsite, or trailer facility, or other recreation facility; (9) A comfort station; or a dispensary, clinic, hospital, convalescent home, or other institution for the infirm; (10) A professional office of a health care provider, as defined in section 323D-2, or other similar service establishment; (11) A mortuary or undertaking establishment; and (12) An establishment that is physically located within the premises of an establishment otherwise covered by this definition, or within the premises of which is physically located a covered establishment, and which holds itself out as serving patrons of the covered establishment. No place of public accommodation defined in this section shall be requested to reconstruct any facility or part thereof to comply with this chapter.")

[29] *See, e.g., Wazeerud-Din v. Goodwill Home & Missions, Inc.*, 737 A.2d 683 (N.J.Super.1999) (churches are not "places of public accommodation"); *Saillant v. City of Greenwood*, No. IPO1-1760, 2003 WL 24032987 (S.D.Ind. Apr.17, 2003) (a "church is not a place of public accommodation").

[30] Robin Fretwell Wilson, *Matters of Conscience: Lessons for Same-Sex Marriage from the Healthcare Context in* SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: EMERGING CONFLICTS at 81; Michael W. McConnell, *Accommodation of Religion*, 1985 SUPREME COURT REV. 1; McConnell, *Accommodation of Religion: An Update and a Response to the Critics*, 60 GEO. WASH. L. REV. 685 (1992).

An objector may be penalized by losing access to government grant programs or other state or local benefits. Thus, in *Catholic Charities of Maine v. City of Portland*, the district court upheld a Portland ordinance that forced a religious charity either to extend employee spousal benefits to registered same-sex couples, or to lose eligibility to all city housing and community development funds.[31] Similarly, the Salvation Army lost $3.5 million in social service contracts with the City of San Francisco because it refused, on religious grounds, to provide benefits to the same-sex partners of its employees.[32] The Boy Scouts of America have litigated and lost numerous suits over a state's authority to deny them access to benefits that others receive, when the law was otherwise silent.[33]

In another example, Catholic adoption agencies in Illinois recently lost contracts with the state because they refused to place children in the homes of unmarried cohabitating couples.[34] The state claimed that the Catholic adoption agencies had violated the state's newly enacted civil union law.[35] That law contained no exemption for religious social service agencies and thus provided no protection against government penalties for conscientious objectors. Although this case implicated a civil union law, the consequences for a religious organization in Hawaii would be indistinguishable under a same-sex marriage law that omits important accommodations that we recommend.

Church-affiliated organizations have lost their exemption from taxes as well. In New Jersey, the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association, a group owned and operated by an historic Methodist organization, refused on religious grounds to host the same-sex civil union ceremonies

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[31] 304 F. Supp. 2d 77 (D. Me. 2004); *see also* footnote 19 above.

[32] *See* Don Lattin, *Charities Balk at Domestic Partner, Open Meeting Laws*, S.F. CHRON., July 10, 1998, at A-1.

[33] *See Evans v. City of Berkeley*, 38 Cal.4th 1 (Cal. App. 2006) (affirming revocation of a boat berth subsidy at public marina due to Boy Scouts' exclusion of atheist and openly gay members); *Boy Scouts of America v. Wyman*, 335 F.3d 80 (2d Cir. 2003) (holding that the Boy Scouts may be excluded from the state's workplace charitable contributions campaign for denying membership to openly gay individuals).

These results are possible because of the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Employment Division v. Smith*, 494 U.S. 872 (1990) (concluding that neutral and generally applicable laws do not violate the First Amendment no matter how much they burden an individual's or organization's exercise of religion). These outcomes demonstrate our point: legislative relief is needed to protect religious conscience.

[34] *Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Springfield v. State*, 2011 WL 3655016 (Ill. Dist. 2011). In deciding a motion for summary judgment, the state trial judge held that Catholic Charities had no property right in their contracts from the state, and thus were not entitled to due process when the state decided not to extend the contract to the charities. *Id.* The judge expressly declined to address Catholic Charities' arguments that the state violated its rights under the Illinois Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/1-101 *et seq.*, the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection & Civil Union Act, 750 ILCS 75/1 *et seq.*, and the Illinois Religious Freedom Restoration Act, 775 ILCS 35/1 *et seq.* *Id.* at n. 1.

[35] Illinois Religious Freedom Protection & Civil Union Act, 750 ILL. COMP. STAT. 75/1 *et seq.*

of two lesbian couples in its beach-side pavilion.[36] Local authorities stripped the group of their exemption from local property taxes on the pavilion, and billed them for $20,000, because the pavilion no longer complied with a state public lands program to which the exemption was tied.[37]

The Camp Meeting Association was also investigated by the New Jersey Department of Civil Rights for an alleged violation of the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination. The Department of Civil Rights has determined that probable cause exists to find a violation. Thus, the case is not only about losing tax-exempt status, but also about being penalized for allegedly violating state nondiscrimination laws.[38]

These impacts on church-affiliated organizations, predicted by scholars,[39] did not result from statutory revocations of tax-exempt status in marriage legislation. Instead, these actions occurred because state laws never anticipated the problem and offered an explicit exemption.

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[36] *See* Jill P. Capuzzo, Group Loses Tax Break Over Gay Union Issue, N.Y. TIMES, Sept. 18, 2007 (describing the case of *Bernstein v. Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Ass'n*).

[37] *See* Bill Bowman, *$20G Due in Tax on Boardwalk Pavilion: Exemption Lifted in Rights Dispute*, ASBURY PARK PRESS, Feb. 23, 2008. Some exemption opponents argue that *Ocean Grove* is irrelevant to the same-sex marriage debate because the tax exemption at issue was conditioned upon the Camp Meeting Association's willingness to open the property for the entire public. That argument, however, overlooks two points. First, while the tax exemption in *Ocean Grove* was based on an open-space requirement, nothing stops governments from conditioning tax exemptions on other things, such as compliance with state and local nondiscrimination laws or, more generally, being organized for the "public interest." *Bob Jones Univ. v. United States*, 461 U.S. 574, 592 (1983). Thus, just as governments can strip a tax exemption because an organization cannot in good conscience open its property to the entire public, so also can governments strip a tax exemption because it concludes that an organization's conscientious objection to same-sex marriage violates nondiscrimination laws or "public policy" more generally. Second, when the Camp Meeting Association agreed to open its property to the entire public, it likely never contemplated the legalization of civil unions or same-sex marriage, much less that it would be asked to facilitate such a marriage in violation of its religious beliefs. *Ocean Grove* thus illustrates the fact that legalizing same-sex marriage will create significant conflicts of conscience that were never contemplated before.

[38] As the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit explained, "The federal complaint arose out of the [New Jersey Department of Civil Right's] investigation into whether the Association's refusal to permit couples to use the Boardwalk Pavilion for civil unions violates the [New Jersey Law Against Discrimination]. Clearly, therefore, New Jersey's interest in eliminating unlawful discrimination is at the center of this dispute." *Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Ass'n of United Methodist Church v. Vespa-Papaleo*, 339 Fed.Appx. 232, 238 (3d Cir. 2009); *See also Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Springfield v. State*, 2011 WL 3655016 (2011).

[39] Douglas W. Kmiec, *Same-Sex Marriage and the Coming Antidiscrimination Campaigns Against Religion* in SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: EMERGING CONFLICTS 107-21 (describing attacks on tax exemptions for religious organizations with objections to same-sex marriage); Jonathan Turley, *An Unholy Union* in SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: EMERGING CONFLICTS 59-76 (arguing for same-sex marriage but against withdrawal of tax exemptions for religious organizations with conscientious objections).

These experiences drive home the need for explicit protection from penalties by the government.[40]

b. Needed Protection for Individual Objectors

Legal recognition of same-sex marriage can also place a real burden on *individuals* whose objection arises not from anti-gay animus, but from a sincere religious belief in traditional marriage.

The proposed legislation does not protect individuals—other than those enumerated few—who, for religious reasons, prefer no role in a same-sex marriage ceremony. Thus, a religious individual who runs a small business, e.g., a baker who makes wedding cakes; a wedding photographer; a caterer; a florist; a reception hall owner; or a seamstress or a tailor, receives no protection at all.[41] The failure to protect such individuals puts them to a cruel choice: their conscience or their livelihood.[42] Enacting protections for individual objectors is not only necessary but also consistent with the existing public policy in Hawaii's nondiscrimination statutory scheme.[43]

Some assume that any religious objection to same-sex marriage must be an objection to providing goods or services to gays as such: in other words, that a refusal represents animus towards gay couples. Yet many people of good will view marriage as a religious institution and the wedding ceremony as a religious sacrament. For them, assisting with a marriage ceremony has religious significance that commercial services, like serving food or driving taxis, simply do

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[40] Unlike many other states, Hawaii has not enacted a state Religious Freedom Restoration Act. *See, e.g.*, Eugene Volokh, *RFRA State Map available at* http://www.law.ucla.edu/volokh/relmap.pdf (last visited Sept. 3, 2010) (reporting states with state constitutional amendments, statutory RFRAs, and state constitutional free exercise clauses interpreted to require strict scrutiny).

[41] *See Elane Photography LLC v. Willock*, 309 P.3d 53 (N.M. Aug. 22, 2013) (fining New Mexico photographer for refusing on religious grounds to photograph a same-sex commitment ceremony); *see also Gay Couple Sues Illinois Bed and Breakfast For Refusing to Host Civil Union Ceremony*, HUFFINGTON POST, Feb. 23, 2011.

[42] Robin Fretwell Wilson, *A Matter of Conviction: Moral Clashes Over Same-Sex Adoption*, 22 BYU J. PUB. L. 475 (2008) (describing dismissals and resignations of social service workers where conscience protections were not provided).

[43] HAW. REV. STAT. § 378-3 (1998) (("Nothing in this part shall be deemed to . . . [p]rohibit or prevent any religious or denominational institution or organization, or any organization operated for charitable or educational purposes, that is operated, supervised or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization, from giving preference to individuals of the same religion or from making a selection calculated to promote the religious principles for which the organization is established or maintained[.]"); HAW. REV. STAT. § 515-8 (1992) ("It is not a discriminatory practice for a religious institution or organization or a charitable or educational organization operated, supervised, or controlled by a religious institution or organization to give preference to members of the same religion in a real property transaction, unless membership in such religion is restricted on account of race, color, or ancestry.")

not. They have no objection generally to providing services to same-sex couples, but they object to directly facilitating a marriage.

In short, nondiscrimination statutes enacted years ago now take on a whole new level of significance, with a much greater need for religious exemptions. A marriage bill that provides no protection to individual objectors (other than authorized celebrants, who are already protected by the Constitution) would effectively leave any individual who refuses to assist with same-sex wedding ceremonies vulnerable to a lawsuit, whether framed as sexual orientation discrimination, sex discrimination, or, where applicable, marital-status discrimination.[44]

Of course, accommodating individual objectors might not be without cost for same-sex couples. Thus, we argue only for "hardship exemptions"—exemptions that are available only when there is no undue hardship on same-sex couples.[45]

c. No Robust and Uniform Protection for Religious Organizations

Hawaii's law prohibits discrimination based on, among other things, marital status, sex, and sexual orientation. Such discrimination is prohibited in a variety of areas—including employment,[46] housing,[47] and public accommodations[48]—with only a few limited exemptions for

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[44] Refusals to provide benefits to same-sex partners have been invalidated as a form of gender or sex discrimination. *See Baehr v. Lewin*, 852 P.2d 44 (Haw. 1993) (plurality op.) (discrimination by state against same-sex spouses raised difficult constitutional questions regarding sex discrimination and sexual orientation discrimination). Similar cases have occurred elsewhere. In *In re Levenson*, 560 F.3d 1145 (9th Cir. 2009) (order of Reinhardt, J.), the court found an employer's denial of coverage for an employee's same-sex partner under the company's employment benefits plan to be sex discrimination. As Judge Reinhardt explained:

> There is no doubt that the denial of Levenson's request that Sears be made a beneficiary of his federal benefits violated the EDR Plan's prohibition on discrimination based on sex or sexual orientation. Levenson was unable to make his spouse a beneficiary of his federal benefits due solely to his spouse's sex. If Sears were female, or if Levenson himself were female, Levenson would be able to add Sears as a beneficiary. Thus, the denial of benefits at issue here was sex-based and can be understood as a violation of the EDR Plan's prohibition of sex discrimination.

See also In re Golinski, 2009 WL 2222884 at *3 (9th Cir. Jan. 13, 2009) (Order of Kozinski, C.J.) (construing the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit's benefits policy to include same-sex spouses because denial of benefits to same-sex marriage was form of sex-based discrimination); *In re Marriage Cases*, 183 P.3d 384, 436-40 (Cal. 2008) (same-sex marriage proponents pursued gender discrimination claims ultimately rejected by court); *cf.* WIS. STAT. § 111.36(1)(d) (defining sexual orientation discrimination as a form of gender discrimination).

[45] *See* Part A above.

[46] HAW. STAT. ANN. § 378-2 (2012) (making it unlawful "[f]or any employer to refuse to hire or employ or to bar or discharge from employment, or otherwise to discriminate against any individual in compensation or in the terms, conditions, or privileges of employment" because of "race, sex, including gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, color, ancestry, disability, marital status, arrest and court record, or domestic or sexual violence victim status").

religious organizations.[49] The current exemptions are inadequate to address the wide range of foreseeable issues, identified in part C, concerning same-sex marriage and religious objectors. One exemption protects only a religious organization's decision to favor members of the same faith in "real property transaction[s]."[50] Another applies only to employment—not provisions of services, housing, and other issues—and although it permits an organization to make decisions "calculated to promote the religious principles for which the organization is established or maintained," the scope of that language is unclear.[51] And by stating that a given law does not "prohibit" certain actions by a religious organization, the exemptions may do nothing to protect against other governmental penalties such as withdrawal of licensure or tax-exempt status or withdrawal of government contracts.

Once the bill is passed, those opposed to *any* exceptions for religious communities will give the narrowest possible interpretation to all exemptions. For this reason, the legislature ought to take enough time to write legislation consonant with President Obama's sage counsel: "On an issue as sensitive as this, knowing that Americans hold a wide range of views based on deeply held beliefs, maintaining our nation's commitment to religious freedom is also vital." To clarify the sort of legal protection that should surround religious life in this country, and to foster and address a whole range of developing conflicts, further reflection on refining this legislation is imperative.

The proposed bill in Hawaii to legalize same-sex marriage provides *considerably less* protection than most *every other jurisdiction* where the legislature has considered the issue.[52]

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[47] HAW. STAT. ANN. § 515-3 (2012) (making it "a discriminatory practice for an owner or any other person engaging in a real estate transaction, or for a real estate broker or salesperson, because of race, sex, including gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, color, religion, marital status, familial status, ancestry, disability, age, or human immunodeficiency virus infection").

[48] HAW. STAT. ANN. § 489-3 (2012) ("Unfair discriminatory practices that deny, or attempt to deny, a person the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations of a place of public accommodation on the basis of race, sex, including gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, color, religion, ancestry, or disability are prohibited.").

[49] *See* footnote 6 above.

[50] HAW. REV. STAT. § 515-8 (2012) ("It is not a discriminatory practice for a religious institution or organization or a charitable or educational organization operated, supervised, or controlled by a religious institution or organization to give preference to members of the same religion in a real property transaction, unless membership in such religion is restricted on account of race, color, or ancestry.").

[51] HAW. REV. STAT. § 378-3(5) (2012) ("Nothing in this part [governing employment practices] shall be deemed to . . . [p]rohibit or prevent any religious or denominational institution or organization, or any organization operated for charitable or educational purposes, that is operated, supervised or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization, from giving preference to individuals of the same religion or from making a selection calculated to promote the religious principles for which the organization is established or maintained[.]")

[52] *See* Appendix A below. Delaware is the odd exception.

Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Minnesota New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington have all enacted same-sex marriage laws, and all provide much more protection for religious liberty than Hawaii's proposed legislation.[53] Each of those states protects religious organizations from being forced to offer "services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges" related to a marriage when doing so would violate their religious beliefs.[54] Although the protections in Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington also fall short in key areas,[55] they still provide far more protection than Hawaii's proposed same-sex marriage legislation.

Conclusion

Without adequate safeguards for religious liberty of the sort proposed in this letter, the recognition of same-sex marriage will lead to socially divisive and entirely unnecessary conflicts between the exercise of rights pursuant to the same-sex marriage law and religious liberty. That is a destructive path leading to needless loss by both sides. A balanced "middle way" leads to a win-win solution for both sides. The Hawaii State Legislature should avoid either extreme and be the wise peacemaker. On that note, we would welcome any opportunity to provide further information, analysis, or testimony to the Hawaii State Legislature.

Respectfully yours,[56]

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[53] *See* footnote 9 above; *see generally* Appendix A below.

[54] *See* footnote 47 above.

[55] *See* Letter to Iowa Legislators, *available at* http://mirrorofjustice.blogs.com/files/2009-07-12-iowa-letter-final.doc, at 6-7 (letter from the undersigned describing shortcomings of Connecticut, Vermont, and New Hampshire conscience protections).

[56] Academic affiliation is indicated for identification purposes only. The universities that employ the signers take no position on this or any related bill.

APPENDIX A:

Core Religious Liberty Protections in Same-Sex Marriage Legislation

Table reprinted from Robin Fretwell Wilson, The Dangers of Accommodating Contraception Objections in Same-Sex Marriage and Other Closely Related Regimes, 53 B.C. L. REV. 141, (2012), http://scholarlycommons.law.wlu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1130&context=wlufac

All jurisdictions that have enacted legislation (Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington) **expressly** exempt clergy from requirements to solemnize or celebrate marriages inconsistent with their religious faith. *See* CONN. GEN. STAT. §§ 46b-21, 46b-150d (2009); DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 13, § 106 (West 2012); D.C. CODE § 46-406(c) (2010); MD. CODE ANN., Note: FAM. LAW §§ 2-201, 2-202, 2-406 (2012), 2012 Maryland Laws Ch. 2 (H.B. 438) § 2; MINN. STAT. ANN. § 517.09 (West 2013); N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 457:37 (2011); N.Y. DOM. REL. LAW § 11(1) (McKinney 2011); VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 18, § 5144(b) (2010); R.I. GEN. LAWS ANN. § 15-3-6.1 (West 2013); WASH. REV. CODE § 26.04.010(2)(4) (2012).

Nine jurisdictions (Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington) **expressly** allow a religiously affiliated group to refuse to "provide services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges for the solemnization or celebration of a marriage." *See* CONN. GEN. STAT. § 46b-150d; D.C. CODE § 46-406(e); MD. CODE ANN., Note: FAM. LAW §§ 2-201, 2-202 (2012), 2012 Maryland Laws Ch. 2 (H.B. 438) § 3; MINN. STAT. ANN. § 363A.26 (West 2013); N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 457:37(III); N.Y. DOM. REL. LAW § 10-b(1); VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 9, § 4502(1); R.I. GEN. LAWS ANN. § 15-3-6.1 (West 2013); WASH. REV. CODE § 26.04.010(2)(5).

Nine jurisdictions (Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Minnesota New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington) **expressly** protect covered religious objectors from **private suit.** *See* CONN. GEN. STAT. § 46b-150d; D.C. CODE § 46-406(e); MD. CODE ANN., Note: FAM. LAW §§ 2-201, 2-202 (2012), 2012 Maryland Laws Ch. 2 (H.B. 438) §§ 2-3; MINN. STAT. ANN. § 517.09 (West 2013); N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 457:37(III); N.Y. DOM. REL. LAW § 10-b(1); R.I. GEN. LAWS ANN. § 15-3-6.1 (West 2013); VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 9, § 4502(1); WASH. REV. CODE § 26.04.010(2)(6).

Eight jurisdictions (Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Minnesota New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Washington) **expressly** protect religious objectors, including religiously affiliated **nonprofit organizations**, from being **"penalize[d]"** by the government for such refusals through, e.g., the loss of government grants. *See* CONN. GEN. STAT. § 46b-150d; D.C. Code § 46-406(e)(2); MD. CODE ANN., Note: FAM. LAW §§ 2-201, 2-202 (2012), 2012 Maryland Laws Ch. 2 (H.B. 438) §§ 2-3; MINN. STAT. ANN. § 517.09 (West 2013); N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 457:37(III); N.Y. DOM. REL. LAW § 10-b(1); R.I. GEN. LAWS ANN. § 15-3-6.1 (West 2013); WASH. REV. CODE § 26.04.010(2)(4).

Four jurisdictions (Maryland, the District of Columbia, New Hampshire and Rhode Island) **expressly** protect religious organizations from "the promotion of same-sex marriage through religious programs, counseling, courses, or retreats, that is in violation of the religious society's beliefs." *See* D.C. CODE § 46-406(e) (2011)). *See also* N.H. REV. STAT. ANN § 457:37(3) (exempting "the promotion of marriage through **religious counseling**, programs, courses, retreats, or housing designated for married individuals"); MD. CODE ANN., Note: FAM. LAW §§ 2-201, 2-202 (2012), 2012 Maryland Laws Ch. 2 (H.B. 438) §§ 2-3. (provided **so long as the program receives no government funding);** R.I. GEN. LAWS ANN. § 15-3-6.1 (West 2013) (exempting the "promotion of marriage through any social or religious programs or service"). **New York** may protect this. *See* N.Y. DOM. REL. LAW § 10-b (2) ("... nothing in this article shall limit or diminish the right, ... of any religious or denominational institution or organization, or any organization operated for charitable or educational purposes, which is operated, supervised or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization ... from taking such action as is calculated by such organization to promote the religious principles for which it is established or maintained").

Three jurisdictions (Minnesota, New Hampshire and New York) **expressly** protect religious organizations from "the promotion of marriage through **... housing** designated for married individuals." *See* N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 457:37(3). *See also* N.Y. DOM. REL. Law § 10-b (2) ("... [N]othing in this article shall limit or diminish the right, ... of any religious or denominational institution or organization, or any organization operated for charitable or educational purposes, which is operated, supervised or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization to limit employment or sales or **rental of housing accommodations** or admission to or give preference to persons of the same religion or denomination..."); MINN. STAT. ANN. § 363A.26 (West 2013)(providing that religious organization are not prohibited from "in matters relating to sexual orientation, taking any action with respect to ... housing and real property).

Three states (Vermont, New Hampshire and Maryland) expressly allow religiously-affiliated fraternal organizations, like the Knights of Columbus, expressly to **limit insurance coverage** to spouses in heterosexual marriages. *See* VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 8 § 4501(b); N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 457:37(IV) (2009); MD. CODE ANN., Note: FAM. LAW §§ 2-201, 2-202, Note: MD INS. LAW § 8–402 (2012); 2012 Maryland Laws Ch. 2 (H.B. 438) § 4.

Two states (Connecticut and Maryland) **expressly** allow a religiously-affiliated **adoption or foster care agency** to place children only with heterosexual married couples so long as they don't receive any government funding. (Conn. Pub. Acts No. 09-13 § 19); *See* MD. CODE ANN., Note: FAM. LAW §§ 2-201, 2-202 (2012).

Three states (Maryland, New Hampshire and New York) **expressly** exempt **individual employees** "being managed, directed, or supervised by or in conjunction with" a covered entity from celebrating same-sex marriages if doing so would violate "religious beliefs and faith." *See* N.Y. DOM. REL. Law. § 10-b (1). *See also* N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 457:37(III); MD. CODE ANN., Note: FAM. LAW §§ 2-201, 2-202 (2012), 2012 Maryland Laws Ch. 2 (H.B. 438) § 2.

Two states (Maryland and New York) include **non-severability clauses** in their legislation. *See* 2011 Sess. Law News of N.Y. Ch. 96 (A. 8520 §5-a) ("This act is to be construed as a whole, and all parts of it are to be read and construed together. If any part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the remainder of this act shall be invalidated."); H.B. 438, 2012 Leg., 430th Sess. (Md. 2012) (the "provisions of this Act are not severable, and if any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason in a court of competent jurisdiction, no other provision or application of this Act may be given effect and this Act shall be null and void").

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Ted Cuyno
Name

975-E ALAI PL.
Address

Wahiawa HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

ROBERT BENTO
Name

94-1165 KALOLI ST.
Address

WAIPAHU, HI 96797
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Cuyno
Name

1975- E Alai Place
Address

Wahiawa HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Clayton Hee.

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Miss Misty Abalos
1557 Nakula St
Wahiawa, HI 96786-2628

Address

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Angela M. Abad
Name

227 A Mala St
Address

Wahiawa HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Chayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Anita Loando-Acohido

Name

1729 California Ave

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

MARY GRACE AGCAOILI

Name

227 A MALA ST.

Address

WAHIAWA, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

SAM U. AGCAOILI
Name

227 MALA ST. APT. A
Address

WAHIAWA, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Aguo Family
Name

555 Kulia St.
Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely, (Duane Anduha)

Duane Anduha
Name

1 Nakakaniki Pl
Address

Wahiawa Hi. 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear ~~Gov~~ Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Susan Arguinea

Name

652 Kulia St

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Brenda Ambrosio

Name

253 Kellog St.

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Paul Aloso

Name

95-184 Waiakoa Dr.

Address

Mililani 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Felicitas U. Alvarez

Name

880 Uakanikea St.

Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Mrs Lucia H. Alambatin
Name

115 Cypress Avenue
Address

Wahiawa HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear SEN CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN P. AGOO

Name

555 KULIA ST

Address

WAH. HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Benjamin AF. Awana
Name

89-104A Haleakala Ave.
Address

Nanakuli, Hawaii 96792
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Maessie Alvana

Name

89104 A Halekala Ave

Address

Waianae HI 96792-4004

City, State, Zip

Dear Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Randall J. Acquino
Name

199 Calif. Ave
Address

Wahiawa, Hi 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Pacita T. Baron
Name

930 Neal Ave
Address

Wahiawa HI 96786-2148
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Lilian C. Balsamo
Name

1336 Aki Aki Pl
Address

Wahiawa, Hi 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Dr + Mrs Norberto Bayon
Name

20 Uluwehi St.
Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear SEN CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

CORI BATTAD

Name

1179 HOIHOI AVE

Address

WAHIAWA HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Jessica Barsalar
Name

35 Aliina Street
Address

Wahiawa Hawaii 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Andrea BAGAYAS
Name

P.O. Box 861503
Address

Wahiawa HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Rae Alexie Bain
Name

850 Makaonikuu St.
Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Bridgette Bennett
Name

123 Plum Street
Address

Wahiawa HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

NORMA E. BETANIDE
Name

95-081 KIPAPA DR APT D-220
Address

MILILANI HI 96789
City, State, Zip

Dear SEN CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BENNETT

Name

123 PLUM ST.

Address

WAHIAWA HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL BUTELA

Name

302 IGIMA ST

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Jen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Shirley Brasher

Name

1088A Lanikoa Pl.

Address

Wahiawa, HI. 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

GLENN BRASHEK

Name

1888 A LANILOA PL

Address

WAHIAWA HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

(Yohanes Budiyanto)

Name

1403-A. California Avenue.

Address

Wahiawa, Hawaii HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Alicia Bugher
Name

101 21st St
Address

Honolulu, HI 96818
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Binavie

Name

127 Uakanikoo Pl.

Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Lorena Butella
Name

302 Ilima St.
Address

Wahiawa Hi. 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Vitenia + Anthony Braschler

Name

732 L Koa st Apt

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

OSCAR D. CADAL
Name

1336 AHE AHE PLACE
Address

WAHIAWA, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Irene Cabal

Name

1336 Ahe Ahe Pl.

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Dennis S. Obar

Name

1137 Hoi Hoi Street

Address

Wahiawa Hawaii 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Darlene Cabral

Name

2069 Calif Ave

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Shirley D. Caban

Name

1344A Ridge Ave

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

GAIL CABALLE
Name

241 KILEA PLACE
Address

WAHIAWA, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at
Our Lady of Perpetual Help / St. Joseph

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Ronald Calimpong
Name

91-1212 Kauiki St.
Address

Ewa Beach Hi. 96706
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Dayne P. Cacem

Name

222-A Valley Ave.

Address

Waiawa Hi 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SENATOR CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

AMELIA CERA

Name

1060 ALE ALE AVENUE

Address

WAHIAWA HI, HAWAII 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Robert Clement Robert E Clement

Name

95-380 Waia Loop

Address

Mililani, HI 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Gladyce Clement

Name

95-380 Waia Loop

Address

Mililani, HI 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Satumino Cabreros

Name

1130 Ala Ola Ave

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Patrina Cash

Name

223 Valley Ave

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Warlito Cayen Jr

Name

222 A Valley Ave

Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Victoria Caraulia
Name

57 Hauola Ave
Address

Wahiawa HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Randy Cash

Name

223 Valley Ave

Address

Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Cieslak

Name

227 Kilea pl

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Matthew Cieslak

Name

227 Kilea Place

Address

Wahiawa HI, 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Ann-by M Say Gedak

Name

227 Kilea Place

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Corpuz
Name

94-1055 Waiopae St.
Address

Waipahu, HI 96797
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Felicisima Corpuz
Name

1540 Calif. Ave.
Address

Wahiawa, Hi 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear SEN CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

BONIFACIO COMPAZ

Name

1540 CALIFORNIA AVE

Address

WAHIAWA HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Hee,

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

James M Au

Name

211 N. C. Mauka St

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Marion Cui

Name

211 N. Circle Mauka St

Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Edward G. Ehu Chayon

Name

2043 Puna Place

Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Ferdenan & Arlene Damo

Name

96-1015 Halokiu St

Address

Mililani, HI, 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Irene Damo

Name

95-1015 Helani St.

Address

Mililani, HI 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

HELEN DAN

Name

283 MAUA ST

Address

WAHIAWA HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

RODOLFO DAR

Name

283 MAKA ST.

Address

WAHIAWA HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Vallere Dascil -Tago

Name

20A makawao Ave

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Deanne Daves
Name

938 Neal Ave.
Address

Wahiawa Hi. 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Angelita A. Lau

Name

221 Kualiki Avenue

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee:

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Phyllis L. Dilwith
Name

2566 California Ave.
Address

Wahiawa HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Dungca
Name

341 Circle Mauka St
Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Francis Dumlao

Name

91-1196 Puaina street

Address

Ewa Beach HI 96706

City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

G. C. Elesarke

Name

1745 Koi Koi ST.

Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Marie Klesorka

Name

1745 Koi Koi ST.

Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. CLAYTON HEE,

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

ISIDRA M. ETABLE
Name

121 A NANEA AVENUE
Address

WAHIAWA, HAWAII 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. CLAYTON HEE,

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

VALTON EDDYLE

Name

121 A NANEA AVENUE

Address

WAHIAWA, HAWAII 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

ARLENE ESTIAMBA

Name

263 ILIWAI DRIVE

Address

WAHIAWA, HI 96786-2306

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

TONY ESPIRITU

Name

109 KARSTEN DR.

Address

WAH. HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

NESTOR EVANGELISTA
Name

1152 IDMEA PLACE
Address

WAHIAWA, HI 96789
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Fernandez
Name

95-1166 Mauaikai St #119
Address

Mililani, HI 96789
City, State, Zip

Dear Gov. Abercrombie, Sen Clayton Hee, Rep. Sylvia Luke, Sen David Ige, Rep Karl Rhoads

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Augustina [illegible]
Name

[illegible] Eames St
Address

[illegible] HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Hee, Rep. Luke, Sen. DAVID IGE, Rep. Rhoades
Sen. DELA CRUZ, Rep. MARCUS OSHIRO

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Prudencio Fondo
Name

1011 Hoi Hoi AVE.
Address

WAH, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee,

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Fukumoto
Name

220 Clark St.
Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Clayton-Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Ernie H Fukumoto
Name

34 Uluwehi St
Address

Wahiawa Hawaii 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Eric Fukunaga

Name

304 Hinuchi St

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

REY GAMPOA

Name

47 IHOIHO PL. WAHIAWA

Address

HONOLULU HI. 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Waikiki

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

JOAN GIBBS
Name

2594 Pali Ave
Address

Waikiki, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Emilia Gonzales

Name

1155 Wafea St. C

Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Elmary Gombio

Name

6669 Avocado St.

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

CHRISTINE HAMADA
Name

2206 CALIFORNIA AVE, APT. N
Address

WAHIAWA, H.I., 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Denise Hak
Name

120 Lohe Place
Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

LARRY HAWKINS JR
Name

1678 HOOLULU RD
Address

WAIHIAWA, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

ROY HEATHERLY
Name

59 IHOIHO PL
Address

Wahiawa HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

David Houle

Name

95-1023 Hololea St.

Address

Mililani, HI 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear Clayton Hee, Senator

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

MARIO LAYUGAN
Name

Wahiawa
Address

HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Ron Saynogan

Name

112 Kanofen Dr

Address

112 Kanofen Dr Wah 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Lagunas

Name

1126 A Aha Aha Ave.

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Camille Laynagan
Name

112 Karsten Dr.
Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee,

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Name

333 Kuwai Dr.

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely, (Remy Licato)

Remy Licato

Name

121 Kaiiki Pl.

Address

Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Dennis Loveland
Name

1928 Alaffala Way
Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Karen Lung

Name

95-1027 Anopili St.

Address

Mililani, HI 96789

City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Regina Loveland
Name

1928 Alahula Way
Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

GRACE JARVIS
Name

62 KALUHEA ST.
Address

WAHIAWA, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Emmy P. Jose
Name

67 IhaIha Place
Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Senator Clayton Hee,

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

JOHN B. KAMPFER
Name

143 PLUM ST.
Address

WAHIAWA, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear SEN CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

JOSIE MAHANSALA
Name

1655-B Waiua ST
Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear SENATOR CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

RICHARD McNALLY
Name

1403 CALIFORNIA AVE
Address

WAHIAWA HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Name

1382 Manua Street

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen. Clayton Hee,

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Merkle
Name

1382 Manua Street
Address

Wahiawa HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Darlene A. Myers

Name

P.O. Box 86-1328

Address

Wahiawa, Hi. 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear SEN. CLAYTON HEE

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

John G. Meyers
Name

P.O. Box 86-1328
Address

Wahiawa, Hi 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

David A. Monroy

Name

2308 California Ave.

Address

Wahiawa Hi 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Sadie Monroy

Name

1798 Koikoi St.

Address

Wah. 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Monalo

Name

1833 Calif Ave

Address

Wahiawa, HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely, (Montalbo)

Albert Montalbo
Name

S Kamani Ave.
Address

Wahiawa HI 96786
City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Montalbo

Name

1628 Horlulu Road

Address

Wahiawa HI 96786

City, State, Zip

Dear Sen Clayton Hee

I am a Roman Catholic and voter in the State of Hawaii. I attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa.

I only support marriage between one man and one woman.

I do not believe we should redefine marriage outside of that definition and am strongly disappointed that a special session has been called to do so.

Please vote **NO** on same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

Marion Montalbo

Name

Shaner Ave.

Address

Wahiawa Hi

City, State, Zip

TO: Committee on Judiciary and Labor

FROM: Family Law Section, Hawaii State Bar Association

RE: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights, Hearing October 28, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.
Written Testimony

Dear Chairman Hee & Vice Chair Shimabukuro and committee members:

The Hawaii State Bar Association's Family Law Section, comprised of 136 attorneys who regularly practice in the Family Courts of the State of Hawaii do offer these written comments regarding Senate Bill 1, Relating to Equal Rights.

We do not take a position as to whether or not the State should/not legalize same sex marriages. However, in reviewing the proposed legislation, we would like to point out potential problems in carrying out the statute(s), if enacted:

1. §572-C – This section is vague and needs to be clarified. We believe the intent was to create a provision that despite biology one is automatically assumed to be the parent just based on the fact that they are married. However, if this is true, then this provision is unnecessary. With the implementation/passage of §572-B, which turns the gender-specific terminology to gender-neutral terms, there would be no need for this provision. Anyone married would have the same rights regarding children, there would be no reason to say "parentage rights based on marriage shall be the same for all married spouses regardless of the gender of the spouses.

The concern here is that this provision does not take into consideration the surrogate or other biological parent. This may create the situation of naming three (3) parents on the birth certificate until such time as the surrogate's or other biological parent's rights are terminated.

2. §572-D – This language appears to be unconstitutional because the State is requiring the federal government to recognize the State's legalization of marriage. If it's purpose is to state simply that the all persons who are married are afforded the same rights regardless of gender, this is not what is being conveyed.

3. §580-1(b) & (c)- We vehemently oppose this provision for several reasons. First, on a practical level, the Family Court system, statewide, is already overcrowded and backlogged. Currently it can take two to three months for an initial hearing on the divorce calendar in the First Circuit. The First Circuit's (Oahu) Family Court consists of only three (3) full-time judges that preside over the domestic division (divorces). For the fiscal year from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 there were 4,133 divorces filed on Oahu alone, 5,536 statewide. There are too many cases as it is now with too few resources- it will be far worse if we include those who are not domiciled here. It will be our Hawaii residents who will suffer.

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,
I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

Now is your chance to do "the right thing" for so many people!

Respectfully,

Rosalie Wiesenthal

Name (print): ROSALIE WIESENTHAL
Street: 481 OPIHIKAO PL.
City: HONOLULU, HI 96825
Email address: ROSWIES@AOL.COM

RE: Testimony in support of marriage equality

To whom it may concern of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing this testimony is strong support of marriage equality. This issue impacts my life directly. Being born and raised in Hawaii and being a proud Hawaii resident I was sadden that I would have to leave my home to be married, but at that time the option to being legally married was not given. So my partner and I along with my family went to California to be wed. I went into this marriage knowing that my certificate would not be recognized as a married couple at home but hoping one day it would. That time is now.

My partner changed jobs recently and would be without health care, I thought that it would be an easy transition to getting her onto my EUTF account. It was not. I presented my wedding certificate from California as legal proof that she was my spouse and therefore entitled to being covered under my health benefits. My departments' human resource office incorrectly told me that the certificate that I submitted was not recognized so she would not qualify. Again after doing a web search the information that I was told was incorrect but I could see how confusing it was for them to interpret. If it was a heterosexual marriage there would have been no question about the license legitimacy of proving spousal rank. It is situations like this that brings home the fact that marriage equality is the right thing to do and that all marriages are held on equal ground.

I am proud to be from Hawaii... I just wish Hawaii was as proud of me.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna White
809 Maluniu Ave
Kailua, HI 96734

Senate Clerk

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,
I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

July 4, 1776:
We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. That they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Equality is the state of being equal in rank, value or ability.

Amen.
The Time is Now
Do what's right!

Respectfully,

Gary Loo

Name (print): Gary Loo
Street: 4132 Papu Circle
City: Honolulu Hawaii
Email address:
gary-loo@hotmail.com

Sara Ortiz
10 ILIAHI STREET HONOLULU, HI 96817-3218
TEL 808 7794831
sara.s.ortiz@gmail.com

October 14, 2013

Re : Testimony in Support of Marriage Equality

Esteemed Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am respectfully submitting this letter in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i. Despite the divisiveness we have seen up until now, the issue of marriage equality transcends politics and religion. Marriage equality is an issue of human rights at their most fundamental level. As human beings, we should have the right to the most basic necessities: food, clean drinking water, basic shelter, adequate medical care, at the very least, primary education, and as citizens of this great country, basic freedoms that were granted by our forefathers in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Love as a primal human emotion should be governed then by the tenets of these fundamental human rights. As human beings, it follows that we have the right to love whom we choose and to sanctify this love through the sacred act and institution of marriage.

On January 13, 2010, I graduated *summa cum laude* with a BA in International Studies from Hawai'i Pacific University and was honored to be selected as Valedictory Speaker of my graduating class. My mentor, then Chair of the Department of International Studies, Dr. Carlos Juárez, proudly introduced me as HPU's first valedictory speaker of Mexican heritage. As looked upon my audience of classmates with my professors and administrators behind me, I spoke of what it meant to be a student at my alma mater and what it meant to be a global citizen of Hawai'i, here in this "beautiful gathering place." I shared insights on life and implored my fellow students to create the better world our leaders have dreamed of. Finally, I acknowledged those in my life who had profoundly shaped the woman I've become, namely, "my life, my love, Edwin, who has stood by my through life's deepest valleys and highest summits, without whom I would not be standing here before you today." One month later, Edwin and I were married. In retrospect, I

can't even begin to imagine having been denied the right to marry this person whom I love so deeply. Yet still, so many are.

While Hawai'i Pacific University brought me here back in 2003, what has kept me here as a proud citizen of Hawai'i ten years later is our celebration of diversity and the sacredness of family, of 'ohana, that is unique to our culture. Here, we nurture an extended definition of family that is inclusive of relationships that extend beyond blood kinship to hanai spiritual kinship. I have come to learn is that the concept of family is so sacred here in Hawai'i, that opponents of marriage equality will fight to preserve archaic ideas of what a nuclear family *should* be instead of what it truly *is*, an evolving structure. Opponents of marriage equality may argue that sanctioning marriage for two people of the same sex is wrong, a moral outrage and might lead to the very destruction of family as we know it. These claims are based on hatred and fear, and stand in flagrant contradiction of Hawai'i's foundations of tolerance and acceptance of those different from ourselves that have drawn so many "outsiders" to our shores throughout history. As the crossroads of East and West, Hawai'i finds itself in a timely position to join states leading the movement toward marriage equality. As legislators, you stand at the edge of history. As a concerned citizen and advocate for social justice, I challenge you to take a step forward and have the courage to make your decision for marriage equality based on reason and in the spirit of justice and human rights for all families of Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Sara Ortiz

10 Iliahi Street

Honolulu, HI 96817

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

My family and I support marriage equality in Hawai'i. My partner and I are both Hawaiian and feel that Hawai'i embraces our beliefs and cultures. We are proud to be Hawaiian and are hopeful that Hawai'i takes this opportunity to support marriage equality. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Sarah K Begley

Name (print): Sarah Begley

Street: P.O. Box 2428

City: Wailuku, HI 96793

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

Equality I will always Support.
Maybe the word "Marriage" has to be
looked at and debated. After
Testimonies I will make up my mind

Respectfully,

Fetulima Tamasese

Name (print): Fetulima Tamasese

Street: 73-4399 Lani St

City: K-Kona HI 96740

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i. I was born + raised in Hanapepe, Kauai, + my partner/spouse + I have been together for seventeen years. We were recently married in California + ask you to respect our civil rights by supporting marriage equality for Hawaii. As residents of Hawaii, my partner/spouse + I would like to be married in Hawaii.

Mahalo nui loa for your support.

Respectfully,

Matt Hamabata

Name (print): MATTHEWS M. HAMABATA

Street: 73-1193 LOLOA DRIVE

City: KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII 96740

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I believe that all loving and committed couples should be treated with the same dignity & respect. And I believe that anyone & everyone should have the right to marry who they love. Supporting marriage equality is important to me because I have multiple relatives and friends who are gay ~~and~~/lesbian. They have been in committed relationships with partners of the same sex, and they have illustrated that love knows no bounds. I believe the State of Hawai'i should recognize their love and commitment to one another.

Respectfully,

Maya L. Chong

Name (print): Maya L. Chong

Street: 65-1349 Kawaihae Rd.

City: Kamuela, HI 96743

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I BELIEVE THAT TWO PEOPLE WHO LOVE EACH OTHER SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO MARRY REGARDLESS OF THEIR SEX!

Respectfully,

Earl Dressel

Name (print): EARL DRESSEL

Street: 69-1647 PUAKO BEACH DR. #103

City: KAMUELA, HI 96743

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am in favor of strongly support the marriage equality for Hawaii. We are all equal and should be all equal in every area.

Respectfully,

Anne Dressel

Name (print): Anne Dressel

Street: 69-1647 Puako Beach Drive Condo #103

City: Kamuela, HI 96743

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

We are all equal. We do not need an election ballot item next year deciding whether we should be equal or not. Equality starts right now. Pass the marriage equality bill.

Respectfully,

K. Veriato

Name (print): Karen Veriato

Street: P.O Box 812

City: Naalehu, HI 96772

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

IF IOWA CAN DO IT WE CAN TOO!

Respectfully,

Yoshiko Takabayashi

Name (print): YOSHIKO TAKABAYASHI

Street: 188 HALE ST

City: HILO, HI

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

Hawaii's number 1 value is ohana, this doesn't only apply to blood relatives; but to extensions of who we are & as a sign of respect. I have many friends & family members who are in a LGBT sex couple & it saddens me that they're unable to have the same rights & benefits as opposite-sex couples have.

One thing that broke my heart was when my Uncle Chris lossed his long term partner of over 30 years, uncle Dave. Uncle Dave's children, who had condemned him for his loving relationship came in & took EVERYTHING they owned. My uncle Chris was left w/NOTHING, because they weren't legally married. How sad. After loking his partner, my uncle's health deteriorated rapidly. He died a poor man in 2011.

I promised my uncle that I would work on making this impossible to happen again to other same-sex couples. Hawaii is ready for Marriage Equality & to live up to the title, the Aloha State.

Respectfully,

Name (print): MICHAEL JMK MULKEY

Street: 11-3585 PLUMERIA ST.

City: MOUNTAIN VIEW, HI. 96771

Email address: MIKA.MULKEY@GMAIL.COM

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

Equality in the eyes of the law is deeply embedded in the constitution so I find it outrageous that it has taken us so long to reach marriage equality. The bill before you in the coming special session is but one way to (nearly) achieve that. All recognition of marriage should be purely a civil matter and it should ~~be~~ treat everyone ~~a~~ the same. It is all about Love and commitment!

Respectfully,

Richard D. Reed

Name (print): RICHARD D. REED

Street: PO BOX 178

City: HAKALAU, HI 96710

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time, for reading this with an open heart. (decided to love a woman)

I came out in secrecy when I was 17 years old, never wanting anything more than to love with all of my heart and be loved back only to learn that doing that in secret especially in the eyes of God, was actually being ashamed to be a christian.

Today I am 54 years old and am pleading, begging emploring you to let me and my girlfriend marry. We contribute to society, our families our state (inc. church) with all of our beings. Please allow us to mary, please.

Respectfully, With Aloha,

Name (print): Carmela Tafoya

Street: 2320 Sonoma St.

City: Honolulu, HI 96822

Email address: alohac@rocketmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

35!! That's the number of years my partner + I have been together. We look forward to getting married this year after the marriage equality bill has passed. We have been waiting a long time + know the time has come for us to receive all the rights + benefits of opposite sex couples. We are both born + raised in Hawaii, tax paying, law abiding citizens who deserve full equality before the law. We also want the opportunity to get married in our home state.

Respectfully,

Donna Gedge

Name (print): DONNA GEDGE

Street: 222 Opihikao Way

City: HON.

Email address: gedged003@hawaii.rr.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am a longtime resident of Hawaii (25 years). Some twenty years ago I attended oral arguments at the Hawaii State Supreme Court at which the State AG was unable to provide compelling support for the state's interest in denying equal marriage rights to couples of the same gender. Recently the Supreme Court of the United States decided in favor of supporting the legitimacy and equality of same-gender marriage. Time is making clear that marriage equality is truly a matter of equality before the law. Religious-based opposition to marriage equality has no more legitimacy than did religiously-motivated objections to so-called "miscegenation" in the past. My partner and I have been waiting nearly 30 years to enjoy equal protection as married persons. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Stephen Tschudi

Name (print): Stephen TSCHUDI

Street: 1743 10TH AVE APT C

City: HONOLULU HI 96816

Email address: byjove@hotmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

My name is Lynn Onderko. I am a proud American, a proud mother and a proud Army spouse. I am blessed to be married to my best friend and true partner for 15 years. But I struggle every day knowing that this right has not been afforded to everyone that wants it.

This is a civil rights issue. Our constitution represents all our citizenry equally. Marriage is not an exclusive privilege for only certain qualifying couples. The time is now, we must do the right thing. Pass Marriage Equality.

Respectfully,

Lynn Onderko

Name (print): Lynn Onderko
Street: 91-1199 Waiemi
City: Ewa Beach
Email address: lynnaronderko@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in strong support of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am a native mother of two sons. One son identifies as Native Hawaiian and the other identifies as Black, or African-American. Who they are tells you why I am in support of equality for all.

Let's move on to Marriage Equality!

Respectfully,

Joyce M. Charles

Name (print): Joyce Midori Charles

Street: 4944 Kilauea Ave. Apt. 1

City: Honolulu HI 96816

Email address: joyce.charles@yahoo.com

I STRONGLY SUPPORT MARRIAGE EQUALITY!!!

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

THANKS FOR CONSIDERING THIS BILL. PLEASE VOTE "YES" AND TAKE A STEP FORWARD FOR EQUALITY IN HAWAII. SAME SEX COUPLES ENDURE MORE HASSLES FOR BASICALLY NO REASON BUT NOT BEING LEGALLY MARRIED. THAT'S NOT RIGHT!

Respectfully,

David A. Bates

Name (print): DAVID A. BATES

Street: 3476 KALIHI ST. APT B

City: HONOLULU HI 96819

Email address: BATESALANDAVID@YAHOO.COM

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

Marriage should be available to all regardless of gender. I support marriage as a right that should not be abridged to those of opposite genders. Gender itself is not fixed; it is a preference. So then should we limit marriage to those of opposite genders. Let's make marriage available to all including gender minorities. It is estimated that 10% of Hawaii's adult population belongs to LGBT or gender minorities.

Respectfully,

Name (print): Randolph Heck

Street: 3324 Sierra Dr. Apt. 103

City: Honolulu, HI 96816

Email address:

RandyInKoimuki@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

It would be really a shame for the ALOHA STATE to be the last recognizing equal rights for all couples and families of any demographics. In the year 2013 Human Rights have come a long way away from the "recent" times when BLACK people wouldn't be served at certain restaurants or allowed to drink water from a public fountain, unless labeled "COLOR WATER". Now GAY people are the "new" black people, fighting for the LEGAL RIGHT to MARRY! It is a great time to be part of this process and look backwards at 2013 with the peace of mind of having done what is RIGHT. Let's not be the LAST STATE to pass into history as homophobic & discriminatory & out of tune with Reality!

Respectfully,

Name (print): Adriana Andrist

Street: 3518 Alani Dr.

City: Honolulu HI 96822

Email address: Andrea Andrist@msn.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I have been waiting for 35 years to marry my partner. In 1998 I was hopeful of the possibility. I am now considered a senior citizen and as I rapidly approach end of life issues I never dreamed it would take my state so long to do the right thing. Please don't make me wait any longer to have the same rights as my married brothers and sisters. As a tax payer, voter, retired government worker and all around respectful citizen of Hawai'i I believe I am due this.

Respectfully,

Monica N. Montgomery

Name (print): Monica Neilani Montgomery

Street: 222 Opihikao Way

City: Honolulu

Email address: Pollywograinbow@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I have lived in Hawaii my entire life and have grown up being taught values of love, respect and acceptance. During this time of decision that will affect all families and individuals in Hawaii, I am in support of marriage equality.

The same rights should be extended to same-sex couples. They deserve the same dignity and opportunities to love and be protected under law.

I have friends and family members in the LGBT community and they deserve to be welcomed and loved in the same way, in the spirit of Aloha.

Respectfully,

Name (print): Lauralee Baoy

Street: 3476 KALIHI ST APT B

City: HONOLULU, HI 96819

Email address:
kuika14@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

My name is Crystal Maya Cathcart. I am a state employee, an adoptive parent, a community volunteer, a tax-payer, and a proud resident of Hawai'i. I live in Honolulu and have previously resided in Aiea and Kailua. As a social worker, I work tirelessly on behalf of Hawai'i families. I believe that my own family which is made up of my girlfriend, myself, and our daughter, deserves the same access to benefits that other families enjoy. I hope you will seriously consider making Hawai'i an even better place to live by granting marriage equality to all loving, consensual adult couples. It is a difficult thing to do to explain to my daughter that her parents aren't allowed to get married like all of her friends' parents. She doesn't understand, at 7 years old, why anyone would want to be mean to our family. I hope to one day soon be able to tell her that her family is accepted by our state. As a mother, that would mean the world to me. Thank you for your time & consideration. I urge you to support marriage equality for same-sex couples!

Respectfully,

Crystal M. Cathcart

Name (print): Crystal Maya Cathcart

Street: Puna Ln.

City: Honolulu

Email address: crystalcathcart@hotmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor. Senator Brickwood Galuteria

I am writing in strong support of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

It is time to pass bill SB232 I am a strong sorporter. I want to have the freedom that every heterosexual person has regarding Marriage. Marriage shoulden't be something that should be deny to anyone.

I have my friends Tony + Shawn wich wish to be many and I would like to attend to their marriage here in hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Name (print): Andres Astrique

Street: 445 Seaside Ave #3007

City: Honolulu, HI 96815

Email address: aac12@earthlink.net

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I and my same-sex partner, Stephen Tschudi, have been residents of Hawaii for more than 25 years. We consider these islands to be our home. We have been together as a couple for almost 30 years. We changed our surnames to have the same surname Tschudi — ten years ago to visibly show our union and commitment to each other. Ever since same-sex marriage began to be legalized in some other U.S. States, we have considered whether we wanted to travel to one of those States in order to get married, but our decision has always been that we wanted to get married in this State, our home, where our family and friends live. We have been waiting a long time for this to be possible, and now, with the Special Legislative Session, it seems that now there is finally a real possibility for this to happen. For this reason, I strongly urge you to vote in favor of marriage equality in Hawaii (it is the trend all over the U.S.) so that Stephen's and my union can enjoy the same State recognition as that of heterosexual couples. This is a wonderful chance for our State to show true Aloha Spirit for all residents in these islands!

Respectfully,

Daniel Tschudi

Daniel Tschudi
Name (print):
1743 10th Ave #C
Street:
Honolulu, HI 96816
City:
daniel.tschudi@gmail.com
Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

10/13/13

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

Please support ~~SB 232~~ SB 1 Marriage Equality

I was raised and socialized within a catholic family. All my siblings are legally married, I wish the same for my significant other an myself. We have been together for over 35 years. We are good people, we pay our taxes, vote and highly involved in community activities on Molokai.

Respectfully,

Richard Rodriguez PhD

Name (print): Richard A. Rodríguez

Street: 100 Lio Place A3

City: Maunaloa, HI 96770

Email address:

richardr@hawaii.edu

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

We are Dale Mole and Karlen Blaesdell-Kahului residents and a same sex couple. Together since 1990. We are both in the Health Care Industry.

We are in strong support of marriage equality for Hawaii. We are reciprocal beneficiary since 2002.

We are born and raised here and of Hawaiian descent. We give of our time, money and our voices, as members of the Hawaiian Community, as community volunteers, and as community volunteers. and as tax paying, law abiding citizens.

Together we have raised a child whose married with children and a business owner.

We ask for your support of marriage equality for Hawaii

Respectfully,

Name (print): Dale M. Mole

Street: 50 Velvan St.

City: Kahului, HI 96732

Email address: dynamicduo808@rocketmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

10/17/13

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I have been in a committed relationship since 1998 and moved to Maui in 2010 with my partner with the understanding that life here is full of Aloha Spirit for all. Unfortunately, same-sex couples in Hawaii are not fully embraced in our community and we have both experienced discrimination that is very disheartening. As a physician and physical therapist, I provide healing and hope to all of my patients, so the paradox that I do not consistently have that same energy directed toward me is difficult to understand. I remain hopeful that the positive directions I take will eventually be returned 10-fold. I am asking for your help in support of marriage equality for everyone in Hawaii, embracing the true meaning of Aloha with love for all of our citizens, regardless of their individual preferences.

Respectfully,

Karen M. Frangos

Name (print): Karen M. Frangos

Street: 1215 S. Kihei Rd, O-707

City: Kihei, HI 96753

Email address: drkmfrangos@aol.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

My partner of 15 years and I moved out to Maui in 2010 to live out the rest of our lives here in Paradise. We believed that we were moving to a "Progressive" State much like Oregon where we came from & hoping some day that we can be treated w/ Equality & that Hawaii will allow us to marry here in Hawaii. We ask you to PLEASE consider Marriage Equality as a basic Right to ~~have access~~ allow us access to ~~[illegible]~~ legally marry & confirm our long time commitment to one another. As we have the full support of both our friends & family to marry. We just need your "permission" to make it legal. PLEASE consider this a request for your help to finally make this happen & know that you will gain many more supporters if & only if your represent all of us in your district to help create "fairness" to the current legal system. You'll gain many more supporters if you take this stand as we all want to share in supporting legislators who are all about fairness!!

Respectfully,

Name (print): Kim Banske

Street: 1215 S. Kihei Rd #0-707

City: Kihei HI 96753

Email address: MSKmb@AOL.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am a happily married heterosexual Catholic. I enjoy the freedom to be married to the one I love. I cannot refuse this freedom to any of my brothers and sisters, as a matter of faith.

Who are we to judge that another kind of love, different from our own, is less worthy or less sanct?

Please vote to allow marriage equality for all who choose Love.

Respectfully,

Rita Ryan

Name (print): Rita Ryan

Street: 1154 AALA PLACE

City: MAKAWAO, HI 96768

Email address: ritaryan05@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am writing this to you in hopes that you support the right for everyone to marry the person they love. I am a 30 year old lesbian living in Maui with my partner of almost two years, we hope to someday be able to get married and be able to have children and build a worry free family & life. I have been a lesbian all my life and am excited to see this happen. My home state is California & we are ready to join the other states as well. Marriage Equality for all.

Respectfully,

Stefanie B. Hildreth

Name (print): STEFANIE HILDRETH

Street: 1295 OLINDA RD.

City: MAKAWAO, HI 96768

Email address:
Stefani.hildreth@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

We are Karlen Blaisdell and Dale Mole, Kahului residents and a same sex couple, together since 1996. We are both in the Health Care Industry.

We are in strong support of marriage equality for Hawaii. We are reciprocal beneficiary's since 2002.

Both of us are born and raised here and of Hawaiian descent. We give of our time, our money, and our voices, as members of the Hawaiian business community, as community volunteers, and as tax-paying, law-abiding citizens.

Together we have raised a child who is married with children and a business owner.

We ask for your support of marriage equality for Hawaii.

Respectfully,

Karlen N. Blaisdell

Name (print): Karlen N. Blaisdell

Street: 50 Verran Street

City: Kahului HI 96732

Email address:

dynamicduo808@rocketmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am an attorney and long time Maui resident. My partner and I have been together for ten years. We take care of my 85 year old mother and a foster child. I have served on many boards and commissions and my life has been dedicated to service to my community. Now I would like to ask, in return, that I be given the same treatment as my fellow citizens.

For me, it is a question of fairness and equal protection under the law. There is no longer any real reason for the state to deny equal access to justice and equal protection of the law. All the reasons are rooted in religion and prejudice. People are entitled to their beliefs but if my partner gets sick, I want to be able to visit him in the hospital and if I die, I want my benefits to flow to him, just like anyone else. Thank you for taking the time to vote for love.

Respectfully,

Kevin Block

Name (print): Kevin Block

Street: 55 Eono Pl.

City: Haiku, HI

Email address:

Kevin.block@mauicounty.gov

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I was in a relationship with a Mexican man for 6 years when we lived together in Minnesota. I would have married him if that was possible. It would have prevented heartache if our marriage could have been recognized by the US Government for legal immigration. Instead, we were traveling together in South Texas when we were forced to stop at an immigration inspection station. They put each of us in separate jail cells and then shipped my boyfriend back to Mexico permanently that night. Then he got into a bad relationship and caught HIV and AIDS. I continue to visit him.

Respectfully,

John T Gelert

Name (print): John T Gelert
Street: 2140 Awlhi Pl Apt 5
City: Kihei, HI 96753
Email address:
jgelert@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

My name is Stacey Moniz and I believe in the right to marriage for ALL. I STRONGLY support the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Hawaii is the Aloha State. It's time. The rest of the community is ready. Let's make life fair for all (liberty & justice for all.) Thank you for your time and service!

Respectfully,

Stacey Moniz

Name (print): Stacey Moniz
Street: 2A Kilakila Place
City: Pukalani, HI 96793
Email address: staceymoniz@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

This is an issue of basic fairness. Please pass this bill. It will make a positive difference in the lives of families throughout Hawai'i. Mahalo!

Respectfully,

David Raatz

Name (print): David Raatz

Street: 2547 Main St.

City: Wailuku HI 96793

Email address: daveraatz@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

My name is Saundra Farmer-Wiley and I live in Kihei on the Island of Maui. I share a home with my Wife of 36 years. We tried to wait for Hawaii to recognize and offer respect to that commitment. This is your chance to do so.

Our relationship has endured without the support it should have had from the Community, Government, and sometime our Faith Community.

We are now Senior Citizens and we're looking forward to being able to age with dignity, not fear.

Respectfully,

Saundra Farmer-Wiley

Name (print): SAUNDRA FARMER-Wiley

Street: 2763 Kauhale St.

City: Kihei, HI. 96753

Email address: mztata@hawaiiantel.net

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

Same gender marriage is a civil issue - a fairness issue.

Equal is equal. Family is family.

My partner/wife and I have supported one another thru births, marriages and deaths for 36 years. We feel that we have earned the rights and privileges of all married couples in Hawaii.

Respectfully,

N. Jean Walker

Name (print): N. Jean Walker

Street: 2763 Kauhale St

City: Kihei, Hawaii 96753

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i. !

As a person of great faith + strong belief in GOD, I strongly believe in equality for all and I am in favor of any and all Bills that support Equality. It is simply the right thing to do and it's the right time to do it without fear, we must move forward in our thinking and in our hearts.

I applaud the Senate for making history + taking a bold step forward in passing this bill and I have great hope + faith the House will do the same.

You can + will make a difference by doing the right, fair, + beautiful thing!

With Much Aloha!

Respectfully,

Name (print): Kecia Joy

Street: 24 Hóoiki Place

City: Kihei, HI 96753

Email address: Kecia@hawaii.rr.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i. I am also a strong supporter of family values. Myself and my husband John take very active rolls in helping my handicapped sister both personally & financially. In the past five years we have made 26 trips to Vancover Washington just to attend to family matters. During these years, my brother & mother passed away. We helped our family get through difficult adjustments ~~through~~ by councelling, financial assistance, & emotional support. Our marriage in California in 2008 changed my life for the better as marriage should. I pray my fellow companions get the same opportunity here in Hawaii

Respectfully,

Name (print): John Montfort

Street: 585 Iao Valley Rd.

City: Wailuku HI 96793

Email address: John@theJohnZ.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i. SOME OF MY REASONS ARE LINKED TO MY BELIEF IN THAT ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE ENTITLED TO THE SAME CIVIL RIGHTS AS ALL OTHER CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF HAWAII + UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. SUPPORTING MARRIAGE EQUALITY WITH YOUR VOTE IS THE POND THING TO DO.

A MORE PERSONAL EXAMPLE OF WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE IN SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY IS BECAUSE OF PEOPLE LIKE MY FRIENDS WHO HAD BEEN IN A COMMITTED, LOVING AND RESPONSIBLE MONOGAMOUS RELATIONSHIP FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS. NO TWO HUMAN BEINGS COULD HAVE EXEMPLIFIED FAMILY VALUES MORE THAN THESE TWO MEN. SADLY, ~~AFTER~~ TWO WEEKS AGO ONE OF THE PARTNERS DIED OF CANCER, FOR WHICH HE HAD BEEN CARED FOR AS DEVOTEDLY AS ANY MARRIAGE PARTNER. BUT THEY WERE DENIED THE RIGHT TO CALL EACH OTHER BELOVED SPOUSES.

Respectfully,

Name (print): GAIL P. GUAZZO

Street: 19 OHIA LEHUA PL.

City: MAKAWAO, HI 96768

Email address: gail.p.guazzo@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I recently moved to Maui from California because of how open and loving and accepting the residents were towards everyone, including same sex relationships. In this past years I have purchased a home with the idea of sharing & making a family. So I thank you for hearing the bill that would grant Civil Union to same-sex couples. As a person of faith I pray & love every single day to marry my partner, and start my family. I am in favor of this piece of legislation that would grant the basic rights and responsibilities to committed couples regardless of gender they happen to have fallen in love with. Really...peace & love is the answer to community & world peace by acceptance of all.

Respectfully,

Name (print): Rebecca Sininson

Street: 52 Waiapo Street

City: Kihei, HI 96753

Email address: phototrekker@hotmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I have lived here on Maui for over 10 years and have cultivated a thriving business during this time. I am completely self employed and I pay state taxes on time every month.

I was raised in a religious environment so I understand the opposing side, but believe that this is about basic human rights.

I have been single most of my life but have found the love of my life and want more than anything to just be treated the same as heterosexual couples.

Thank you for doing the right thing!

Respectfully,

Name (print): John Galvan

Street: 1104A Kaheapo Loop

City: Kihei

Email address: chefjohnmaui@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

My partner & I have lived & worked in Maui for over 20 years. We are self-employed and have paid taxes, both State & Federal and we enjoy what Maui has to offer. During this time on Maui, we have held signs and lobbied to have same-sex marriage available to us. We've been in a committed relationship for 34 years and although we are registered as Domestic Partnership Reciprocity, we do NOT enjoy the over 1,000 benefits that marriage affords heterosexual people. We've waited long enough, 34 years and now is the time to legalize our committed relationship.

Respectfully,

John M. Maroon

Name (print): JOHN M. MAROON

Street: 173 Kulipuli St.

City: Kihei, Hi. 96753

Email address:

LEEPERS001@HAWAII.RR.COM

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I have lived on Maui for 23 years and am a Maui Community College graduate. My partner and I have been together for over 24 years. We have been involved in fighting for marriage equality since the early 1990s.

We have experienced hate crimes in the form of property vandalism and verbal / physical threatening experiences due to being a gay couple.

Our friends and family are in full support of our relationship and are awaiting the day that we can be "married" not "same-sex married".

Please support this effort to afford my partner and I access to FEDERAL rights that cannot be attained without "Marriage".

Respectfully,

Name (print): Paul Harper-O'Connor

Street: 576 Kuikahi Drive

City: Wailuku, HI 96793

Email address: pharperoconnorhi@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

My husband and I have been together for sixteen years and married for five years. We were not allowed to live together in the U.S. because DOMA Section 3 defined marriage for federal purposes as only valid between a man and a woman – and I am a UK citizen. The Supreme Court struck down DOMA #3 on 6/26/2013 and within three months I was able to get a Green Card so we could be together. A Civil Partner cannot sponsor a partner for a Green Card and Hawaiians cannot drive somewhere else to marry. Please support this bill.

Respectfully,

Name (print): PETER JOHN HOWELL

Street: 585 IAO VALLEY RD

City: WAILUKU HI 96793

Email address: JOHN@THEJOHNZ.COM

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

My partner and I have lived and worked in Hawaii for 20 plus years. We became reciprocal beneficiaries when that recognition became available. We seek marriage ~~as a~~ means to both protect and honor our commitment to each other. In total we have been together 34 years and yet we both feel vulnerable for our rights concerning inheritance, retirement, and health decisions.
We strongly support marriage equality in Hawaii.
Thanks for reading my letter

Respectfully,

Steve A. Leeper

Name (print): Steve A. Leeper
Street: 173 Kulipuu St
City: Kihei, HI 96753
Email address: leepers001@hawaii.rr.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

After 12 years together, my partner + I were married in our state just before making the permanent move to this beautiful state when we went to obtain our Hawaii State Business License. we were told that we were not married here.
After years of fighting for the right to call him my husband, he is now less than that.

Thank you for helping make Hawaii take the step to equality not only for us. but all of Hawaii's people

Respectfully,

Michael Looney

Name (print): Michael Looney
Street: 420 Kenolio Rd 22-205
City: Kihei HI 96753
Email address: Seattlelooney@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am writing in Strong Support of Marrigge for Hawaii. I am 28yrs old and Born & raised in Maui. I never thought I would be descrimated for Loving one other. We are taught to Love in all reliegons. Please hear my Plea to remind people to understand something as simple as Love is now being denied to a Human. We deserve the Same rights. "I thought I was born in the United States of America. I trust you will make the right desicion.

Respectfully,

Jeremy Scott Hubbell

Name (print):

Street: PO BOX 1448

City: Kihei, HI, 96753

Email address: Haiku4Life@gmail.com

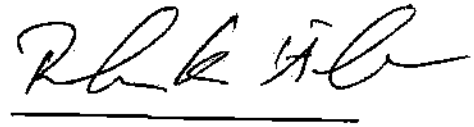
Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

We need to focus on our keiki, they are our future. We remind our children that they are wonderful, beautiful, and that we accept them for who they are. How is this possible when a standard is set for who they are allowed to marry? This movement will help set an example. That you are who you are, and you marry who you love, not who fits the social standard. We are an accepting 'Ohana of Hawai'i Nei.

Respectfully,



Name (print): Radha Ann

Street: 989 Lahui St.

City: Haiku

Email address: hawaiiangap1@hotmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i. As a resident of Maui, I'm seeking your support on passing this bill. I've been in a 13 year committed relationship, and would appreciate one day having the opportunity of marrying my partner and gaining the full rights and recognition as my straight allies.

Respectfully,

Name (print): Kevin Yabes

Street: 50 Kaiolului St. Unit C

City: Kihei, HI 96753

Email address: kyabes@hotmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

My partner & I need the protections & benefits of marriage here in Hawaii in order to secure Federal benefits under the new laws. Our civil union is not enough – Hawaii needs to catch up with the rest of the country & the world. Also, the young people of today wonder why Hawaii is behind while others are moving ahead. Please pass this new law right away.

Respectfully,

Rob Harper-O'Connor

Name (print): ROBERT JOHN HARPER-O'CONNOR

Street: 576 Kuikahi Drive

City: Wailuku Hi. 96793

Email address:

roconnorhi@YAHOO.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

It is time.
It is American Liberty.
It is the Aloha Spirit.
It is right for the economy of Hawaii.

Pass the marriage equality act!
Mahalo.

Respectfully,

Harold Bloomfield

Name (print): HAROLD H. BLOOMFIELD, MD
Street: 28 KULANI PLACE
City: PAIA, HI. 96779
Email address: haroldbloomfieldmd@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

LOVE AND COMMITMENT should BE ENCOURAGED, NOT PUNISHED!

Respectfully,

Name (print): JOHN A. ERVIN

Street: 1875 KALANIANAOLE AVE Apt. 312

City: Hilo, HI 96720

Email address: johnaervin@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

LOVE AND EQUALITY IS NOT ABOUT GENDER.

Respectfully,

Name (print): EDWIN L.P. MIRANDA

Street: 341 NAHALEA AVE.

City: HILO

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'I.

Eila, my wife, and I were married on Salt Spring Island, Canada in 2005. We are distressed that our marriage is still not recognized in Hawaii, the Aloha state. Please remedy this injustice and vote to legalize marriage equality in Hawaii. We deserve a right to happiness.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Name (print): Holly Algord

Street: 55-3309 Hoea Makai Rd.

City: Hawi, HI 96719

Email address: hollyalgord@sbcglobal.net

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I have been married for 7 years, yet my marriage is not valid in my home state of Hawaii. It's important to me + my partner + our children to have the legal recognition + benefits as well as the social equality that Marriage Equality provide.

PLEASE pass Marriage Equality

Mahalo -

Respectfully,

Eila Algood

Name (print): EILA ALGOOD

Street: 55-3309 Ho'ea Makai Rd

City: Hawi, HI 96719

Email address: eilaa@sbcglobal.net

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I HAVE BUILT A WONDERFUL AND LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH MY PARTNER/HUSBAND (WE MARRIED IN CA. THIS SUMMER) OF 17 YEARS. WE ARE LAW ABIDING, HARD WORKING TAX PAYING CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES AND DESERVE EQUAL TREATMENT IN ALL AREAS OF OUR LIVES. PLEASE FIND IT IN YOUR HEART TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THIS VERY IMPORTANT BILL.

Respectfully,

Kevin M. Cawley

Name (print): KEVIN M. CAWLEY
Street: 73-1193 LOLOA DRIVE
City: KAILUA KONA, HI 96740
Email address: KEVINCAWLEY@HAWAII.RR.COM

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I have known I was gay since age 5! My parents made it very clear to me that if I expected to be a doctor, I could not be "different". But I quickly learned that there is so much more Sameness than difference. I also realized that living an incongruent life was very unhealthy! To the POINT! The time has come for equality for All Americans. Please remember that Slavery used to be a "tradition" - and note that divorce is more common in Red States than blue! Please - let all of us share our joy, love and committment. Please ignore the lies + hate - Grant us Marriage equality - it will only strengthen our families!

Respectfully,

Shay Bintliff MD

Name (print): SHAY BINTLIFF, MD

Street: PO Box 6450

City: KAMUELA, HI 96743

Email address: surfdoc@aloha.net

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

My partner of 25 years, the love of my life, died 2 weeks before we were finally given the right to marry in California. It would have made her + our families + colleagues so happy.

I have been blessed to find another love of my life + we moved to Hawaii because of its accepting + diverse culture + beauty. Please don't let our chance to marry and be citizens of a Hawaii that continues to be open + accepting, not be a reality before we no longer have the chance.

Respectfully,

Name (print): SANDRA J. SPRINGS,

Street: P.O. Box 190647 - 55-3478 Akoni Pule

City: Hawi, Hawaii 96719

Email address: lossprings@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

It is time for Hawaii to support its LGBT citizens & children as much as every other person in this beautiful state. It is not about religious beliefs. ~~It~~ IT IS absolutely about equality & fairness.

Respectfully,

Frankie Pang

Name (print): Frankie Pang

Street: P O Box 2408

City: Kamuela, HI 96743

Email address: fyhp@hawaiiantel.net

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

The state of Hawaii should be allowed to provide a license to marry to people who love each other and are willing to commit to each other their support and care for a lifetime.
Marriage provides a strong safety net and benefits that single persons do not enjoy.
The benefits of marriage provided by both state and federal laws helps to prevent poverty and to reduce the need for government welfare support.
Please you for marriage equality

Respectfully,

Barbara L Franklin

Name (print): Barbara L. Franklin
Street: 45-3438 Mamane St.
City: Hono Kaa, HI 96727
Email address: Barbara@island-Law.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

It is clear that this is the civil rights issue of the first part of the 21st century. Gay and lesbian people are entitled to same rights and responsibilities as opposite-gender couples. Please vote courageously for marriage equality and commit Hawaii to stand with other states that have passed similar legislation – because this is the future, and because it is the right and just thing to do!

Respectfully,

Paul E. J.

Name (print): PAUL E. JOHNSTON MD.

Street: 64-604 MANA RD (PO BOX 437297)

City: KAMUELA HI 96743

Email address: pej1000@aol.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I have never been married nor do I anticipate ever being married. However, I, along with every other individual, should be able to marry whomever they wish regardless of gender, race, religion, etc. As a graduate of law school, I firmly believe that both the U.S. and Hawaii constitutions should and must treat all persons equally. Please vote yes.

Respectfully,

Name (print): Betsy A Sanderson

Street: 64-604 Mana Road (P.O. Box 437297)

City: Kamuela HI 96743

Email address: BAS1001@aol.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I urge you to support legislation allowing gay marriage in Hawaii. Our community, state and country have evolved on this issue and understand that it is time to extend these civil rights to gay people.

When my lesbian friends in Massachusetts were married 9 years ago, their 4 children gained a sense of legitimacy that my daughter always had.

Respectfully,

Kathryn G. Rawle

Name (print): Kathryn G. Rawle

Street: U'Ikeoni St.

City: Kaneohe

Email address: krawle@hawaii.rr.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

A good understanding of the meaning of marriage from a spiritual point of view needs to be expressed and supported. The marriage forms a balance of two people. In the past, from a procreation point of view, the marriage was meant to legalize sexual union. A deeper meaning is to form a bond where two people can grow spiritually by befriending and support each other. May the laws make this so

Respectfully,

Ronald L. Thiel

Name (print): RONALD L. THIEL

Street: 45-3438 Mamane ST.

City: Honokaa, HI 96727

Email address: wills.roads@hawaiiantel.net

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i:

THE HAWAIIAN TRADITION OF ACCEPTANCE OF LIFE AS IT IS APPLIES TO ALL OF US. HAWAII CELEBRATES DIFFERENCES. WE ARE COMMITTED TO FAIRNESS TO ALL.

OF THE MANY STATES (13) WHERE MARRIAGE EQUALITY IS LAW, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT MARRIAGES BETWEEN MEN, OR BETWEEN WOMEN, HAS HARMED THE INSTITUTION.

Respectfully,

Name (print): RHOADY LEE

Street: LINDSEY ROAD

City: KAMUELA,

Email address: rvl@aloha.net

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

As a young representative, I support Marriage equality. I will be voting next year. Coming from a bi-curious perspective, it does not make sense to me that If I turn out to be a bisexual, I will not have the same rights as my parents have. When I look at both homosexual, and straight marriages, I see 2 people in love. If marriage is about long term love between two people, and no matter what gender loves what gender, they all want long term love. That they should all have marriage rights.

Respectfully,

Lawrence Derbes III

Name (print): Larry Derbes III

Street:

City: Kamuela

Email address:

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i. As a physician I understand that all of us - everybody - deserves our respect, this should extend to all areas of the law. Our current system, however, creates differences based on sexual preference. The current bill addresses this in a way that is acceptable to the majority of Hawaiian residents. The time is now to address this issue. The way we treat marginalized segments of our society will define our generation. You will be proud that you have supported this bill.

Respectfully,

Name (print): Lawrence J. Derbes Jr. MD, FACC

Street:

City: Kamuela, HI

Email address: drderbes@islandheartandvascular.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

David McCollough + John Roth

Name (print):

Street: PO Box 1743

City: Kamuela

Email address: jroth@hawaiiep.com

10/20/13 (Sunday)

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

I, Maile Napoleon (Kahu) support marriage equality here in Hawai'i, Island wide, we are all one.

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

Yes, please add me to the list of marriage equality, for all concerned, for I believe that everyone of us are equal + in place to decide that whoever wants to be married with all the rights - that others have - so as a minister for 22 years, here in the Island of Oahu + now Hawai'i + Colorado - I highly feel that "we", "they", "us" are + should be given our Human Rights + treated as so - I have relatives that are looking for marriage equality - + the peace of mind of being treated as so — Respectfully, Rev. M. Maile (Spencer) Napoleon

Respectfully,

M. Maile Spencer Napoleon

Name (print): May Maile Spencer Napoleon

Street: 65-1582 Lindsey Road

City: Kamuela, Hawai'i

Email address: manala@hawaii.rr.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I would like to thank you for being a part of this, and making the decision that will shape the history of civil rights in Hawaii for years to come. As a young voter, I have only recently become aware of and involved in legislative issues. However, this is one that is very important to me and close to my heart. My cousin, one of my best friends, lives in Honolulu with her girlfriend. Though I don't think they will be getting married any time soon, if and when she wants to commit her life to another woman whom she deeply loves, I want that to be her legal right. If it is not, when the time comes, I worry that she (and many other bright young gay people) will flee Hawaii for a place that is more egalitarian and welcoming. As a result, we could develop a reputation for prejudice and become a less appealing place to visit and live.

Respectfully,

Sachi Ainge

Name (print): Sachi Ainge
Street: 62-2209 Ouli St
City: Kamuela, HI 96743
Email address: sachiainge@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am a healthcare provider here in Waimea on the Big Island. I see a direct correlation of overall health in the community with happiness. Happiness that comes from every dynamic of life. One particularly impt. is marriage. I feel strongly that one should be able to choose whomever will make them happiest as a spouse regardless of gender. Let's ensure a happy and [redacted] society/community.

Respectfully,

Name (print): Leesa Miyasato DDS

Street: 62-2209 Ouli St

City: Kamuela, HI

Email address: lsmiyasato@gmail

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

my name is Karen Shioji and I live at 1228 Honua Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720
I am a retired probation officer in support of marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples. I believe that all couples in Hawaii should be able to marry the person they love. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Karen R Shioji

Name (print): KAREN R. SHIOJI

Street: 1228 HONUA ST.

City: HILO, HAWAII 96720

Email address: bkshioji@hawaiiantel.net

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

As a gay man, I feel that marriage equality will be very valuable also in ways of giving gay people a way of ~~the~~ building greater self esteem and may eventually lessen the bully that does go on in our society.

Thank you so very much for your efforts in this endeavor.

Respectfully,

Arthur W. Smith

Name (print): ARTHUR W SMITH

Street: 16-1176 40th AVE. MAILING: P.O. Box 935 ~~KEA'AU, HI 96749~~

City: KEA'AU HI 96749

Email address: ARTS2143@GMAIL.COM

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i. I live in Hakalau Hawaii and I am a retired Army Colonel. I am so proud that the military has recognized gay marriage. So that now my gay partner can now have my military benefits if Hawaii will recognize gay marriage. It is very important to us to receive these benefits, but he cannot unless Hawaii recognizes our marriage. I served in Vietnam and have served as Chief Mineral Resources division for California State lands. It is time that I get recognized as equal to any heterosexual and recieve the benefits that my fellow soldiers recieve.

Respectfully,

Paul B Mount

Name (print): Paul B. MOUNT II, COL, USAR, RET

Street: 31-148 Hawaii Belt Rd, PO BOX 382

City: HAKALAU, HI 96710

Email address: hipaulz@YAHOO.COM

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

Hello -
I am a faculty/staff member at the University of Hawaii at Hilo
It is hard to get Domestic Partner Benefits and
after a long road of questioning and discrimination I
finally get the rights I deserve. There are many "OUT"
LGBTQ faculty/staff. Infact, I am the ~~[illegible]~~ only
one who openly identifies ~~as~~ queer
UH-Hilo. Please vote
Yes on LGBTQ Marriage.

Respectfully,

Hannah Wa

Name (print): Hannah Wa

Street: 76A Akala Rd

City: Hilo, HI 96720

Email address:

hannahwa@hawaii.edu

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I have had a long life as a lesbian. I have witnessed forceful mental hospitalization, libel altering attacks, and all prejudice for almost 50 years.

I am very close now to marrying the woman I love. My email says it all walkingonsunshine ~~[illegible]~~ com

Thank you for your support

Respectfully,

Name (print): Berna Mings

Street: P.O. Box 812

City: Naalehu, HI

Email address: above

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am writing in support of same sex marriage
you should be able to marry the person you
love I wouldn't deny anyone of this right

Respectfully,

David W Hansen

Name (print): David W Hansen

Street: 311 Lehua st AHA

City: Hilo Hi 96720

Email address:
davidcar111 @ aol.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am a retired RN and my partner of 15yrs is a retired Engineer. We are domestic partners but wish to marry in Hawaii.

Please know that "yes" vote will prove another landmark in civil rights & equality, and will send a message that Hawaii embraces & welcomes all people, including gay & lesbian brothers & sisters.

We ask for your support of marriage equality.

Thank you

Respectfully,

John R Cook

Name (print): John R. Cook

Street: P.O. Box 382

City: Hakalau, HI 96710

Email address: johnca51@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am a UH Hilo College student. I am the PRIDE Hilo student club at UHH that interfaces within the LGBT community. While I do not have a partner, it would mean a lot to me that when I am ready to get married I actually have the right to marry my same sex partner. So please vote "yes" on this legislation.

Respectfully,

Name (print): Hannah Flanery

Street: 50 Maile Street

City: Hilo

Email address: hflanery@hawaii.edu

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am a transgender student at UH Hilo who feels that now is the time to stand on the right side of history. The LGBT* community and their issues and struggles remain unpronounced in mainstream Hawaiian culture and I refuse to stand-by silently during this time of change. I would greatly appriciate your support on this momentous moment for marriage equality, as would UH Hilo as a whole and the rest of the Hawaii island community.

Mahalo!

Respectfully,

Name (print): Kris Millner

Street: 50 Maile st

City: Hilo, HI

Email address: KMillner@hawaii.edu

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

For in the same way
you judge others, you will
be judged and with the
measure you use, it will
be measured to you.

Matthew 7:2

Respectfully,

Danielle Marrufo

Name (print): Danielle Simone Marrufo

Street: 603 W. Lanikaula St. Hilo HI 96720

City: Hilo

Email address:
marrufo.danielle@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I believe I should be able to Marry the person whom I love & wish to spend the rest of my life with. Please do not deny me of this basic of rights.

Respectfully,

Michael Carlin

Name (print): Michael Carlin

Street: 311 Lehua PAA

City: Hilo

Email address: ispelunk@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am a straight woman who will be celebrating fifty years of marriage with the same man next June. It hurts me that my gay and lesbian friends are currently denied the opportunity to reach this kind of life milestone. Because of my marriage, I am granted certain civil and tax rights that gay & lesbian couples do not have. These rights should be universal. It is not appropriate for citizens to be discriminated against because of who they are.

I therefore ask that you consider what is right for the people of our state and for the children who will grow up in this state and vote in favor of passage of the marriage equality bill.

Respectfully,

Name (print): Veryl Ann Grace

Street: P.O. Box 1330

City: Kea'au HI 96749

Email address: verylagrace@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

Under the U.S. Constitution, all citizens enjoy equal protection under the law. Simple. No morality, no accusations, no shame. EQUALITY for all.

What people do in the privacy of their homes is none of my concern.

Now!

Thank you. Mahalo nui.

Respectfully,

Kath P Boyd

Name (print): KATHLEEN P. BOYD

Street: 15-1654 1st AVE

City: KEA'AU HI 96749

Email address:

Kathleenbyd@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

Aloha. My name is Krysanne Rodriguez. I am from Indianapolis, Indiana. and I moved here to Hilo for college. I attend University of Hawaii at Hilo for Hawaiian Studies and Marine Science. I heard about the same sex Bill through PRIDE Hilo group at my University. I myself am bisexual and I support the same sex Bill. I believe everyone should have the right to marry who they love.

Thank you!

Respectfully,

Krysanne Rodriguez

Name (print): Krysanne Rodriguez

Street: 603 W. Lanihaula Street Hale Inéhau, Rm. 218A

City: Hilo, HI 96720

Email address: kr30@hawaii.edu

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I AM A PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII. WE STRIVE TO CREATE A PLACE OF LEARNING THAT IS SAFE FOR ALL. IF NOT ALL STUDENTS ARE NOT EQUAL IN THE EYE OF THE STATE LAW, HOW COULD WE PRETEND WE ~~SUPPORT~~ PROVIDE EDUCATION DEEPLY-ROOTED IN THE STATE OF ALOHA, STATE OF DIVERSITY? ~~WEANNOT~~

Respectfully,

Name (print): MISAKI TAKABAYASHI

Street: 17-977 Konomanu Road

City: Kurtistown, Hawaii

Email address: misakita@hawaii.edu

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am a business owner in Hilo and strongly support Marriage Equality here in Hawaii. It is unbelievable and unimaginable that we have not yet passed legislation for same-sex marriage. It is high time for all gay people to afford the same rights as heterosexuals.

Respectfully,

Roanne Kaopua

Name (print): Roanne Nip Kaopua

Street: 1033 Ulana Pl.

City: Hilo, HI 96720

Email address: rockinro57@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

We are Deboran + Tanya Beirne, We are residents + homeowners and a same-sex couple, together since 2008. I am a Educational Specialist for the Biology Department at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Tanya owns her own Lawn and ~~Landscaping~~ Landscaping Business. We stand in Support of SB232. We have three children who are loving in support of their mothers. We are honored and moved to be a part of this important discussion, and sincerely thank you for hearing these Testimonies. today and for your consideration of the bill. We work, worship and play here, and we, our families, our friends and our co-workers and our community wish for us to be recognized as equal, and have our relationship recognized as a legal civil union. We are law-abiding tax-paying citizens. We ask for your on SB 232. It is the right thing to do. Thank you for your consideration that would be a positive impact in many lives,

Respectfully,

Deboran + Tanya Beirne

Name (print): Deboran + Tanya Beirne

Street: P.O. Box 6319

City: Hilo, HI 96720

Email address: dscott@hawaii.edu

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

My Name is Danielle Lahi Himmelsbach, I was born and raised on the big Island of Hawai'i. Hawai'i is known as the "Aloha" State, Aloha means love. I believe that everyone should be free to fall in love with any person, regardless of gender, race, religion, etc... When two People are in love and decide they want to spend the rest of their lives together, they should have the right of Marriage. It's not "Gay Marriage" it's Just Marriage. Everyone Everywhere deserves equal rights. Gay rights are civil rights. Hawai'i's laws should reflect the Aloha spirit!

Respectfully,

Danielle Himmelsbach

Name (print): Danielle Himmelsbach

Street: 2380 Kalanianaole St.

City: Hilo

Email address: dh2@hawaii.edu

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I moved to Hilo ten years ago from San Francisco. Growing up & living in a prominently Gay Community gave me the opportunity to get to know and love many people from all walks of life who were members of the LGBT Community. They are my best friends, my family. I do not understand how anyone can be denied their fundamental human rights. This is a land of Aloha — open and accepting love.

Respectfully,

Cassandra Clark

Name (print): CASSANDRA CLARK

Street: 161 Banyan Dr. #608

City: Hilo, HI 96720

Email address:

tatrose2006@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

As a fifth generation Kama'aina in Honolulu I am asking for your support in passing this basic civil rights bill. Doing what is Pono is especially important for the keiki.
I personally know of many same sex couples raising keiki in Hawaii.
It's only a matter of time. Other states and Countries have already made this basic right clear & right.

Respectfully,

Name (print): Sharon Au, Principal Broker/Owner Properties of the Pacific

Street: 2320 Sonoma St.

City: Honolulu

Email address: au@popaloha.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am a heterosexual woman very happily married to a wonderful man for the past 24 years. We are the parents of a daughter. I strongly feel that all people should have access to the same legal protections and supports that my family has been able to take for granted. My gay and lesbian friends, however, have to date not had those protections and supports.

I urge you to pass marriage equality for Hawai'i!

Respectfully,

Amy C. Gregg

Name (print): Amy C. Gregg

Street: 1690 Ko'ele Street

City: Hilo HI 96720

Email address: gregga002@hawaii.rr.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am a licensed minister who has called Hilo my home for the past 35 years. I am married to a wonderful man, and we both hope that others of either gender will be free to find in marriage the love and support we have known in this union. Love and devotion know no gender prefence. Please, take a stand and vote to legalize marriage for all. Pass this bill that celebrates inclusion and equality. Politicians of quality are not threatened by bills for equality.

Respectfully,

Jeri Gertz

Name (print): Jeri Gertz
Street: 1706 waiakea drive
City: HILO
Email address: yogertz@hawaii.rr.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

AS A RESIDENT OF HILO, HAWAI'I, I HAVE BEEN SADDENED BY RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST MARRIAGE EQUALITY. I AM MARRIED, AND IT PAINS ME THAT OUR BEAUTIFUL STATE HAS NOT YET RECOGNIZED THE RIGHT OF ALL CITIZENS TO PARTNER WITH ALOHA, REGARDLESS OF GENDER, TO DEPRIVE HUMAN BEINGS OF THIS INTRINSIC RIGHT IS FUNDAMENTALLY WRONG. HISTORY HAS SHOWN TIME AND AGAIN THAT WE ARE MOVING TOWARDS A MORE INCLUSIVE WORLD - THAT THE SPIRIT OF ALOHA ITSELF IS REFLECTED IN JUST EQUITY FOR EVERYONE. PLEASE CHOOSE THE PONO WAY OF BEING FOR ALL CITIZENS. MAHALO FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Respectfully,

OTR/L

Name (print): JESSIE WENNER OTR/L

Street: 2726 KAUMANA DR.

City: HILO, HI

Email address: j.wenner@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am a gay man and have been a resident of Hilo since 1997. I vote in every election on every issue.

This issue is like no other in my entire life. Currently, I do not enjoy the same rights as my friends who are able to marry. I want those rights and privileges.

I want to be a whole citizen.

Respectfully,

Name (print): Jacob R. McPherson
Street: 438 Kaumana Dr.
City: Hilo, HI 96720
Email address: jakemcpherson@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

My name is Kaimipono Kajiyama and I live in Hilo at the University Palms.

I support marriage equality for gay & lesbian couples. I am a member of the LGBT community. For me, this issue shouldn't even be a question. I believe in equality for everyone. Social change movements have helped to address sexism & give women rights, abolish slavery and the discrimination of colored people. I feel if these huge issues at their times could be changed for equality, so can LGBT civil rights. I thank you for reading.

Respectfully,

Kaimipono S. Kajiyama

Name (print): Ka'imi Kajiyama

Street: 1377 Kapi'olani St. Room #209A

City: Hilo

Email address: kaimikajiyama@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

AS A RECENT ADDITION TO HAWAII, I HAVE LEARNED TO LOVE THE ALOHA SPIRIT THAT PERVADES OUR STATE. THIS SPIRIT IN EVIDENCE ACCEPTANCE FOR EVERYONE. AS A CHURCH GOER, I BELIEVE THAT ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS ARE IN THE BILL AS WRITTEN TO GUARANTEE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS, WHILE STILL ALLOWING THOSE WHO LOVE EACH OTHER THE SAME EQUAL PROTECTION AS THE REST OF THE RESIDENTS

Respectfully,

David A Heilemann

Name (print): DAVID A HEILEMANN

Street: 13-3440 KOHEA ST.

City: PAHOA, HI 96778

Email address: dheilemann@gmail.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support** of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

I am a heterosexual, resident of Hilo. I have been the victim of assaults on my civil rights (illegal abortion, violation of privacy by medical profession, kidnapping & attempted rape) so I am well aware of the terrible & unnecessary toll it takes on a human being. I consider myself a contributing citizen with valuable gifts to share if I feel safe & accepted by my community. The same is true for my gay & lesbian brothers & sisters.

Respectfully,

Lea Cooper

Name (print): LEA COOPER

Street: 2232 KALANIANAOLE AVE,

City: HILO

Email address: leacandycooper@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Hello Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in strong support of marriage equality for Hawai'i.

As a mental health professional, I am familiar with the stress that can come to a person who is denied the choice to marry the person they love. The stigma of being viewed as less-than socially can lead to problems of low self esteem and depression.

On a personal level, I am a lesbian in a committed relationship. My domestic partner and I are engaged to be married, and plan to do so before the year is out. If marriage equality does not pass here in Hawaii we will have to travel to California at great expense in order to do so, effectively losing the supportive presence of most of our friends and family at this important event.

Please support our right to marry here in Hawaii as so many other states and the Federal government have already done. Thank you very much.

Respectfully,

Laura Acevedo MA LMHC
27-212 Road C
Papaikou, Hawaii
laurawarmheart@yahoo.com

Re: Testimony in support of marriage equality

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in strong support of marriage equality for Hawaii. I believe that all loving and committed couples should be treated with the same dignity and respect. I am gay and I want to make a lifetime commitment to the person whom I love.

I am also a Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) (retired) of the Hawaii Army National Guard. I have done two tours to Afghanistan and one tour to Kuwait. As a proud former gay member of the Armed Forces and current resident of Honolulu, I am honored and moved to be a part of this important discussion. Thank you for hearing these testimonies today and for your consideration of the bill.

Respectfully,

Frank P. Belen, Jr.
824 Kinau St Apt # 111
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808)358-1963
email: Ltcfpb63@gmail.com

Aloha Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express **STRONG SUPPORT FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY FOR HAWAI'I. This is one of the most important issues that we need to pass.**

I am very proud to be a resident of Hawai'i, and I do many things to serve this beautiful state.

Marriage Equality will help increase social freedom for residents of our state. I am an ordained minister & chaplain, & as a person of faith I live by a philosophy of lovingkindness & charity. I believe in Marriage Equality because it will allow people to love & marry each other regardless of gender. All committed couples deserve the same basic rights & responsibilities. It will also allow individuals who are committed to each other to visit each other in the hospital when sick without restriction & give them other rights related to ownership, inheritance, & so on.

Marriage Equality will help gay/lesbian people to have improved mental health. I know so many gay/lesbian people here, & I have seen them suffer unnecessarily as a result of the current state of inequality. As a mental health professional, every day I witness the psychological harm that is done via reduced human rights as well as from bullying and harassment that results from a community that does not view gay/lesbian people as equal. As a result of being discriminated against, many gay/lesbian people suffer from more depression, suicidal thoughts, and anxiety than the average population. I have witness teenagers and adults commit suicide due to being discriminated against for being gay or lesbian. It is a tragedy that is totally unnecessary and preventable. **Marriage equality would help reduce bullying against glbt people over time.**

Marriage Equality will bring economic benefits and increased revenue to our state. Other states who have passed marriage equality have seen increased spending by gay/lesbian families & friends on wedding parties, events & services. People love to get married in Hawaii, & this will allow couples from all over the world to come here & get married.

Marriage Equality will teach our keiki about equality and to treat others with respect and not based on discrimination.

Marriage Equality will prove another landmark in civil rights and equality for our state and it will place us nationwide among the states who are now choosing equal rights for committed couples. We would be VERY PROUD of this.

Marriage Equality in Hawaii would not reduce or negatively affect religious communities' right to deny couples access to weddings or other events in their facilities, if they do not support this. Churches practices would not be negatively affected in any way.

Mahalo nui loa for considering passing marriage equality for all couples of our beautiful land,
Rev. Heather Havey
Honolulu, HI

My name is Ernestine Belaski and I am in support of Marriage Equality.
I was a single parent of two working three jobs to support my two children. Thats when I met my partner, Maricor Roman. We were both working at ross and started a friendship that turned into a special relationship. She allowed me to quit two of my jobs and continue my education while supporting both of my children. In 2009, just a year and a half after we met, my son was ill and was in ICU for 8 weeks. she stood by us even when she could have ran the other way. We got through it and wanted to take our relationship to the next level but couldn't.

On June 5, 2013 my Childrens father passed away and left behind three children ages 5, 7 and 12. Without hesitation, we took them in and are now raising them on our own. See, they lost their mom three years before their dad and was never close to any other family but us.

They have been through a lot and don't have a lot of trust but if we were able to get married then that would help them to understand that we love each other so much that we would always be together to take care of them as a couple.

Please pass marriage equality so families like us have equal rights for our children.

Thank you for your support

Ernestine L. Belaski-41
Maricor Roman-36
Jamal-Shamon Outlaw-20
Asia-Zhane Outlaw-19
Je'sha-Ariana Outlaw-Pila-12
Chad-Alexander Pila-7
Passion-Ayana Outlaw-Pila-5

In 42 years of life together, John and I have never been held as equal; never had legal security; never able to file joint taxes; are denied nearly 1,400 financial & social benefits of marriage. At the end of life, we have no guarantees we will be able to take care of the one we love, without the state or long-lost relatives taking everything we have built together.

We are the target of a religious ad in the Maui News saying that we are only second class citizens. "*YOU are not good enough...that YOU do not deserve the same rights as all other Hawaii residents*." It is nothing new -- we see hate constantly. It hurts deeply -- especially to see it from fellow Maulans.

10 years ago, the Massachusetts legalized marriage in that state. None of the bigots' dire predictions turned out to be true. Now a whopping *85% of voters say it's either had a positive or no any impact on their lives.* Even among Republicans 66% say it hasn't negatively affected them.

And remember how it was supposed to destroy straight marriages? *Massachusetts has the lowest divorce rate in the country.* "The family" hasn't fallen apart or been destroyed in the least. Incest and polygamy have not been legalized. Marriage equality is a resounding success.

Why is it acceptable to attack and deny your neighbors, members of your own congregations? Why deny equality to members of your family: your sisters & brothers, mothers & fathers, sons & daughters, grandchildren, nieces & nephews?

We are your friends, your coworkers, business owners, run resorts, are civic leaders, teachers, doctors, lawyers. You have known most of us for many years and we have prospered together to make Maui the #1 paradise it is. We are part of Maui's creative soul - the *aina* of Maui: artists, designers, architects, singers in your church choirs; we are actors, theater & filmmakers, writers, producers. We take care of you, your children, your aunties & uncles. We care for Maui & Hawaii -- the *aina* -- deeply as we strive together make our home truly the *Aloha State*.

To deny marriage equality now will continue to make us second-class. It is not fair. It is not just. *The Supreme Court has said at least 19 times that to treat any minority group as not equal, is* ***unconstitutional***. This is a civil issue. The Court described the right to marriage as "*one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness by free men;" a "basic civil right;" a component of the constitutional rights to liberty, privacy, association, and intimate choice; an expression of emotional support and public commitment; the exercise of spiritual unity; and a fulfillment of one's self*.

In short, in the words of the highest court in the land, *marriage is "the most important relation in life,"* and *"of fundamental importance for all individuals."*

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY

ALOHA MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR,

I AM WRITING IN STRONG SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY FOR HAWAI'I.
MY NAME IS SHEENA L. SHOOK AND I RESIDE IN HONOLULU. MY GIRLFRIEND AND I HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR NEARLY SIX YEARS. IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF SOCIETY WITHOUT THE SAME LEGAL STATUS AFFORDED TO MARRIED COUPLES. OUR DAUGHTER IS CURRENTLY ONLY LEGALLY ADOPTED BY MY GIRLFRIEND. IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN, I FALL TO THE BOTTOM OF A LIST OF POSSIBLE GUARDIANS FOR MY OWN CHILD. WE WOULD HAVE TO PAY SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS TO ESTABLISH ME AS NEXT OF KIN FROM A LEGAL PERSPECTIVE (THROUGH AN END OF LIFE PLAN FOR MY GIRLFRIEND) WHEN A LEGAL MARRIAGE WOULD AFFORD ME THAT RIGHT.
PLEASE SEE TO IT THAT THIS BILL PASSES AND THAT MARRIAGE EQUALITY IS ESTABLISHED FOR ALL THOSE SEEKING IT.

SINCERELY,

SHEENA SHOOK
HONOLULU, HI 96815
STREET ADDRESS: 318 PUNA LN, #B

I strongly support Marriage Equality.

I never thought I would have the opportunity to refer to Gerald (my love of 42 years) as my 'husband'. It is such a remarkable term. It speaks of longevity, trust, attraction and the social & intellectual pairing of human beings.

There have been so many times during the last 42 years, where being able to marry and use the term 'husband' to explicitly convey our relationship, would have been both appropriate and better for me and to whomever I was speaking. Those missed opportunities began early in our lives.

First, we grew up as teenagers in the Sixties, where the subject of homosexuality was never discussed. We never had any grownup icons to tell us our gay feelings were natural and okay. There was no internet. Any information about being gay was almost non-existent. It was only spoken about in the negative.

We met in the Seventies, where homosexuality had not progressed much from our adolescent years. Gerald and I clung together with the strength of our personal pairing commitment. We were "in the closet" socially.

In the Eighties, being gay became a national news story. We participated in the first Pride parade in West Hollywood. I will never forget the feelings Gerald and I had while holding hands (which we never had done in public) and beginning our walk toward the event while passing a mounted policeman with him greeting us and smiling welcomingly. We had never had such a better self-esteem building day. It still affects us today and still leaves us wanting that feeling again.

In the Nineties, we decided to improve our quality of life, so we came to Hawaii, specifically, Maui. We were pleased with overall community acceptance of our pairing, but I still could not call Gerald my 'husband'.

In the Two Thousands, we had a glimmer of hope for marriage equality in Hawaii. But that got sabotaged. We were very hurt by Hawaii's retreat on Marriage Equality. We had been waiting a long time.

In the Twenty Tens, We had a civil partnership ceremony on our 40 anniversary. We have never enjoyed the benefits of what a marriage brings. And still now, I cannot call Gerald my 'husband'.

I urge you to allow Marriage Equality. It's only fair. I want to say 'husband'.

John Ashton Westerberg
264 Ea Street
Wailuku HI 96793
drijohn@me.com

IN SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in strong support of marriage equality for Hawaii.

As a retired lieutenant colonel in the US Air Force, I served my country and my Constitution for 20 years. But I am now legally a second class citizen, since the woman I love and asked to marry me happened to have been born genetically male.

Please take strong action to undo this injustice and pass marriage equality in Hawai'i so that we can live our lives together in full equality under the law.

Thank you for your consideration,

Christopher Finta
Lt Col, US Air Force (Retired)
430 KEONIANA ST # 1210
HONOLULU HI 96815
christopher.finta@gmail.com

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing Date/Time: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
Place:Capitol Auditorium
Re:Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha, Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor:

I am writing in UTTER support of SB 1.

Funny, I have written, and called, and emailed so many members of the legislature and only one has actually contacted me: My Representative Mark Takai, who I so proudly stand beside for acknowledging that love is love, no different for gay couples than for anyone else.

Whatever a bishop, a pastor, or lawyer may profess, I view this moment as the beginning of a greater humanity, of unions guided by each individual's understanding of their higher power- which leads to justice. Justice for all.

For truly, I think the "Marriage Equality" bill will become an Act of basic, decent, humane rights. Humane to gay partners with young children (dearest friends of mine) who desperately need their social security to go to the support of their family due to dire illness. This basic right they have earned. So are the 1138 other federal benefits they cannot collect without marriage.

Why is their loving family so different? Why am my partner and I that, too? Why can't I even hold her hand in public without feeling uncomfortable, without feeling comforted?

I recently read a commentary in the paper by Sister Joan Chatfield, a devout Catholic who said, "We are all created equal in God's eyes; the love we commit to one another should be equal in our laws as well." She cited the golden rules, "Love thy neighbor. Judge not lest you be judged. Do unto others as you would wish done unto you." And then she said these words again, "Love is love." Funny, how sad I felt reading such a kind response to the turmoil confronting same sex marriage.

Maybe my partner and I are different. Maybe we are some *other*. 30 years ago, I felt that profoundly. Today, I feel this:

Sometimes, it's those things we least understand that deserve our deepest trust. Isn't that what love and wonder tell us, too? – Pyco Iyer *Sometimes it is those things.*

Thank you, Chairman Hee, and those on your committee, for inspiring me to write my clearest view of SB 1.
Sherrie Sato

TO: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
Senator Hee, Chair; Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

HEARING DATE & TIME: Monday, October 28, 2013, 10:30 a.m.
PLACE: Auditorium, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1 – EQUAL RIGHTS

Aloha Chair Clayton Hee and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in **strong support of SB 1** for marriage equality in Hawai'i.

My name is Geoffrey Chung, and I was born and raised in Hawaii. I have been together with my partner, Doug, for eight years and together, we share co-parenting responsibilities for our eighteen year-old daughter. The stress of not being recognized as a family, created in large part by legal inequities for gay/lesbian families, cannot be understated.

The U. S. Supreme Court struck down DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act) which allows married, same-sex couples in those states that have marriage equality to obtain the federal marriage benefits (over 1000) that are already granted to opposite sex married couples. Married same-sex couples in the military already receive the federal benefits of marriage, which is significant in Hawai'i given its many military installations throughout the state. I, myself, work for the federal government, an organization that now views Doug as my legally-recognized "married" partner. As such, it is time for Hawaii to offer parity for the recognition, rights, benefits, and entitlements now offered by the federal government.

Hawai'i has been on the forefront of civil rights in the United States including the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, nondiscrimination clauses for employment, public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and Civil Unions. Now is the time for Hawai'i to pass the marriage equality bill granting marriage rights to same-sex couples.

Thank you for your consideration of this Bill. I appeal to your sense of justice, and ask that you please support passage of SB 1.

Respectfully,

Geoffrey Chung
1621 Dole Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822-4838

Testimony in support of marriage equality.

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor,

I am writing in strong support of marriage equality for Hawaii.

As a citizen of Hawaii for almost forty-two years I have looked forward to the day when lesbian and gay people could "tie the knot" and be not only understood, but be fully qualified by law to receive all the benefits of married love.

I am currently a member of the Gay Mens Chorus of Honolulu. One of our members, Ed, age 23, is in the US Army and was stationed with his male partner, John, there. Tragically his dearest was killed by an IED. His commander sent him home to mourn.

He met John when they were only fourteen. Together they prospered and in the last decade had a son via surrogate mother, then placing the child with Ed's brother they both joined the Army and were stationed together in Afghanistan.

In mid September Ed was sent again to Afghanistan. He e-mailed members of GMCH with this thought: "For those I love and care about, I will sacrifice."

— over —