

As the wife of a military member who is often deployed fighting for our nations freedoms we have experienced life without a daddy present. I have two young boys who need their father. There are things in life that a father imparts to boys that is vital in their growth and development into healthy masculine men. According to Dr. Tracey Hansen a psychologist focused on marriage/parenting and male and female differences states, "Men and women bring diversity to parenting; each makes unique contributions to rearing children that can't be replicated by the other. Mothers and fathers simply are not interchangeable. Two women can both be good mothers, but neither can be a good father." Two men could make good fathers but neither can take the place of a mother. Please protect our children and those in foster care give them the chance at a healthy life. Marriage was created for one man and one women.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Rebecca Prasad

I am opposed to SB1.

This issue is not a decision to make, God already He declared that He made man and woman so that we will multiply and live a fruitful life.

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

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. Priests, 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. As a pastor, I am concerned about the religious facility versus public accommodation protections mentioned in the bill. As you know, in Hawaii many church buildings in Hawaii are used for a variety of other purposes, including preschools and other public events not restricted to "members only" as the bill defines the guidelines for religious facilities. There is question whether such churches and organizations will be protected against lawsuits if same sax marriage proponents were denied use of the facility. I am concerned that our First Amendment rights be protected in the process.

As you have no doubt observed, the majority of the people of Hawaii oppose the legalization of same sex marriage. And this is true for a variety of reasons. While there are a few who are hateful in their opposition of same sex marriage, that is not true of the majority. Please give the people of Hawaii the opportunity to decide this issue.

Same sex marriage is not about civil rights. This article says it well: [http://www.cjjustice.org/stories/storyReader\\$1178](http://www.cjjustice.org/stories/storyReader$1178). The same sex marriage bill is about redefining marriage, calling homosexual relationships "marriage," when marriage has long been defined as between a man and a woman (and this has been true since a long time before marriage became a state matter).

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.

Jared Lawrence

Pastor, International Baptist Fellowship

2004 University Avenue

Honolulu, HI 96822

To: Chair Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee and Chair Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee

Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00a.m.

From: Joy Horzago

City, State: Honolulu, Kalini Hawaii

Subject:

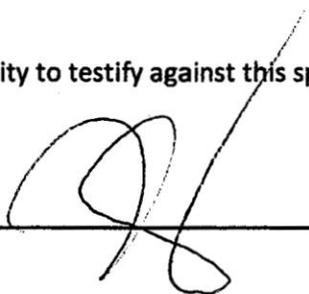
**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL SESSION AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BILL,  
SB1 Relating to Equal Rights**

**Dear Chair Rhoads & Chair Luke:**

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage, SB1 Relating to Equal Rights. I oppose the special session because it rushes the democratic process and does not give we, the people, sufficient input in the legislative process.

I oppose this bill because it will infringe upon our freedoms protected under the First Amendment and will have far reaching consequences that nobody seems to be discussing. Whether it is freedom of speech, education or employment, this bill will impact our future and forever change our history, customs, and culture. Finally, we voted on 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.

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
joy horcajo	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 10/29/13 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 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. Joy Horcajo Po Box 318 Kaneohe HI 96744 (808) 275-7888 PS. This is my third time submitting my written testimony since my hand written one was not accepted since the rules changed again... Email is not sufficient. . It must be submitted via website.

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.

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 for respect. I have many friends & family members who are in a LGBT same-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 ~~lost~~ lost his longtime 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 with nothing, because they weren't legally married. Hawaii. After losing his partner, my Uncle's health deteriorated rapidly. We lost him in 11-15-2011.

I promised my Uncle that I would work on making this impossible to happen again to other same-sex partners. Ohana means family & no one should be left w/o their loved ones regardless of blood relation. Hawaii is overdue for marriage equality.

Respectfully,



Name (print): MICHAEL JMK MULKEY

Street: 11-3585 PLUMERIA ST.

City: MOUNTAIN VIEW, HI 96771

Email address: MIKA.MULKEY@GMAIL.COM

The State Attorney General testified on Monday that SB1 has been “carefully written to protect the rights of religious organizations”. Our US Constitution was written to protect our individual citizen rights **not** organizations. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment is to protect the “free exercise” of religion of individual citizens not organizations.

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.

The underlying issue is moving the ancient boundary of marriage between a man and a woman and forcing all of society to embrace homosexuality as good and normal, causing many to violate their conscience.

You need to be aware that around our Nation people are being forced to embrace homosexuality and same-sex marriage; their free exercise of religion – living by their convictions – is being attacked.

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/>)

In August CA passed a bathroom bill that forces all schools grade K-12 to allow students "pick" the bathroom and locker room they feel most comfortable in. What about the rights of those students who don't feel comfortable with opposite sex students in their bathrooms and locker rooms regardless of their professed gender?

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.

This issue, 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.

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:** Shimi Rii [<mailto:shimi.rii@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 9:40 AM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** Testimony in support of SB1

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB1 - I am filled with hope that this bill passes and my dear friends and fellow citizens are able to enjoy the same rights that my new husband and I have (we are newlyweds as of August 18 of this year). Amongst our wedding guests, we had 3 same sex couples who are amongst the BEST couples I have ever met - they are loving, supportive, and the quintessential definition of what a "marriage" between two people should be. My emcee and her wife got married without the legal advantages 2 years ago at Loulu Palms Estate - and it was a beautiful ceremony full of love and support. This past month, they flew to Rhode Island (where she is from) and got married legally. I am saddened that they were not able to legally bind their marriage in the state where they were able to perform their ceremony. I have been with my husband for 11 years before being married 2 months ago, and I am now aware of the benefits and advantages of legally being married, that so many of our friends are not privy to. I am saddened by those who think this is against religious sanction and go out of their way to sabotage other people's happiness. Everyone should be living the best possible life they can, and that does not include squashing other people's rights.

Please consider my testimony in support of SB1.

Thank you for your consideration,

Yoshimi Rii Claborn

## IN SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

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 Hawaii 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

Karl Rhoads, Chair Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee House Finance Committee

10/31/13

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

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.

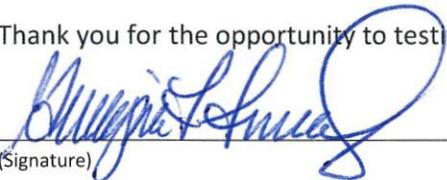
I am particularly concerned that the religious exemption clauses are so sparse. Priest, pastors and churches are exempted under only very limited circumstances. There is no exemption for religious organizations, charities or fraternal societies, nor are there any exemptions for individuals. I am concerned 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!

I oppose SB1 and ask that you let the people decide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this special session and against this bill.



(Signature)

(Printed name) Georgina L. Fernandez

(address) 2184A Hoo Hai Street, Pearl City, HI 96782

(phone number) (808) 479-2444

-----Original Message-----

From: Keakealani Chan [[mailto:keakealani\\_t@yahoo.com](mailto:keakealani_t@yahoo.com)]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 9:54 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO SAME SEX MARRIAGE

Keakealani Chan  
94-1132 Pulai St.  
Waipahu, HI 96797

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees:

I do not support this Special Session of Congress in Hawaii and I do not support Same-Sex Marriage.

My greatest concerns are:

- 1- Religious entities will not always be protected against having to support same-sex marriages. One day the law through policy at State and Federal levels will demand all religions to support same-sex marriage.
- 2- People and small businesses will be required to support this bill directly or indirectly through consumer services, etc.
- 3- Organizations which require verification of Hawaiian ancestry will not be able to assist children of same-sex marriages (particularly male unions), without great effort, in distinguishing part or full Hawaiian blood. How can two fathers be listed as biological parents on a birth certificate, and truthfully list child's ethnicity?
- 4- If passed, same-sex marriages will become a norm that teaches that this type of relationship is natural and promoted in society.

I ask that you strongly consider voting no on this bill. It is a societal and religious endangerment.

Mahalo,  
Keakealani Chan

There is only one truth and the rest is all opinions.  
The truth is if all couples were homosexual without artificial intervention humanity would not continue. So from a purely physical standpoint marriage was never ordained to be between two people of the same sex.

Besides the physical part of the relationship, it is the combination of the emotions and characteristics that a man and a woman bring to a relationship that makes a child well rounded and complete.

Why is the institution of marriage being changed to assure financial benefits to such a small minority of people? Why not just pass a law saying that they can receive these financial benefits apart from marriage.

Each one of you were elected to office to do the will of the people, not to do your own will or the will of the lobbyist with the most amount of money.

The way this new law is written is not the will of the people. It is the will of a small vocal minority.

If you vote for this law you will be changing Hawaii forever and there will be no going back. **Let the people decide!**

**From:** Calvert Chun [<mailto:calvertchun@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 9:55 AM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** We are opposed to Same Sex Marriage

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Dear Representatives,

My name is Calvert Chun. My wife Emily and I live with our two children ages 14 and 9 at 1054-A Alewa Drive. In the same house that my parents built in 1950. I attended Maemae Elementary and Kawananakoa Intermediate, then Mid Pacific Institute and the University of Hawaii. My family has strong roots in the Honolulu community going back to my Goong Goong and Popo on both my father and mother's sides.

I am actually a private person and have never submitted public testimony of a personal nature like this before. Why now?

Because Marriage is the bedrock of our society. We are at an extremely critical cross-roads here. This is the single most important issue facing Hawaii, the country, and the world.

Common sense tells you that government has no business tampering with the definition of Marriage.

Responsible government means more weight must be given to the majority. To do otherwise would be like letting the tail wag the dog, or in this situation actually legally forcing the dog so that he is required to allow the tail to wag him.

All people should be treated with dignity and respect. But not all people can or should be treated the same.

What would be the ramifications of legalized same sex marriage? Perhaps not that much in the next 5 to 10 years. But what about 100 years from now? Close your eyes and think about it. It will dramatically and negatively change society in many, many ways and there will be no turning back.

Thank you for allowing us to testify.

Calvert and Emily Chun  
1054-A Alewa Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96817  
Tel: 595-4267

Name: Valerie Smith  
Re: SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights  
To: House Committee on Judiciary & House Committee on Finance  
Hearing Date: 10/31/13  
Time: 10:00 AM  
Testimony: in person, in support

Dear esteemed committee members:

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; it's also our parents' wish for their grandchild. Why should the state in which their grandson is born place him and his parents in an alternate category of family by virtue of an alternate category of rights? Nothing conveys the meaning and recognition of family like marriage does.

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.

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.

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 <sup>the opportunity</sup> 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

**From:** Fabian Kaulukukui-Heloca [<mailto:kaulukukf001@hawaii.rr.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:11 AM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** Against same sex marriage

Aloha,

Same sex marriage does not provide equality for anyone.

I am against same sex marriage.

Why are we being forced to accept a viewpoint that is contrary to the norm.

Let the people of Hawaii decide instead of a handful of politicians. Put this matter to the vote of the people.

Respectfully,

Fabian Kaulukukui-Heloca

45-412 Kamalani Place

Kaneohe, HI 96744

I am strongly opposed to SB 1 Relating to Equality.

This bill seeks to gain rights for one population at the expense of another population. I believe the proponents of this bill do not want to see my rights diminished any more than they want their own diminished.

While the bill provides for exemptions to clergy not to perform same sex solemnizations, the bill does not provide the necessary protections for myself, my fellow congregation, and business owners.

All churches, by very nature, are public accommodations and this bill will force churches to choose whether to open their facility to same sex marriages or close their doors to visitors which will eventually close the doors of the church. How is this Freedom of Religion?

I've been hearing in the media how Hawaii may become the 15<sup>th</sup> state to allow same sex marriage. How many of us were told by our mothers, "If your friends jump off a bridge, will you?" Our mothers were telling us that we each have free will and we are responsible and accountable for the decisions we make. Just because other states have passed this legislation doesn't mean Hawaii has to follow suit. The State of Hawaii has free will as well and the people have been here all week telling the legislators – we want to choose.

Last, I want to mention that one of my favorite bumper stickers in Hawaii is the one that says "Slow Down! This ain't the mainland." While this is good advice for our freeways, it is also good advice for our legislative process.

I respectfully ask you to vote No on SB1 and allow for due diligence and writing of sound legislation that protects the rights of all Hawaii's people. Then, and only then, let the people decide.

Thank you.

RE: SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013/10:00am

Testifier will appear in person.

October 29, 2013

Aloha Members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance,

**I am writing in strong support of SB1, which would finally bring marriage equality to Hawai'i.**

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

Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

10/28/13

**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 Phil Yasuhara, a registered voter who lives in Kapolei. After graduating from the University of Hawaii, I served in the US Air Force for 30 years. I am a patriotic, informed, concerned citizen.

I oppose this session because it circumvents the democratic process. For example, two minutes is insufficient for me to relate all of my concerns about this session and this bill. I believe that the people of Hawaii have already spoken. The 1998 Constitutional Amendment gave the Legislature the power reserve marriage to opposite sex couples, NOT the power to redefine marriage. I can assure you that as one who voted for that amendment, I thought that I was voting to reaffirm natural marriage.

You, the Legislature, obviously agreed with me since Hawaii Revised Statute 572C-2 states, in part, "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." Last session, this body passed almost 300 bills with an expectation that all those affected would comply with the intent of each piece of legislation. In the past 15 years, we, the people have granted you only one specific authority: to reserve marriage to opposite sex couples. If you believe that we, the people of Hawaii, have changed our minds, then it is incumbent upon you to ask us again. To vote yes on this bill is to vote against the expressed will of the people which you, yourselves, have previously acknowledged.

I oppose this bill because there is not a single word on religious exemptions for religious organizations, charities, fraternal societies, or for me, as an individual. I'm sure you're are well aware that individuals have been sued for speaking out after bills similar to this one were passed elsewhere. I urge you to consider my rights as well and to shield people like me from costly litigation. Let me state again that SB1 has not a single word to protect my individual rights.

This is probably the most divisive issue you have ever faced, rail notwithstanding, because that was simply a difference of opinions and ideas. This issue, however, strikes at the core of deeply held religious beliefs and individual rights on both sides. I think you are well aware that there is a sizeable portion of your constituency who do not support this bill. I therefore urge you to vote NO on this bill and let the people decide, not only because it is the most prudent choice politically for you, but because it is the right thing to do.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you.

Philip K. Yasuhara  
91-943 Oaniani Street  
Kapolei, HI 96707

808 674-9122

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Mahalo for allowing me to testify. I cannot imagine that I can or will say anything that you have not already heard by this time. This is an issue of Civil Rights. I don't want to come into your church and change your religion AND you need to stay out of mine. I don't want to change the religious practice of your church. Marriage is a Civil Right. This is not an issue about RELIGIOUS rights being taken away. The main concern seems to be that some religious organizations running "for profit" businesses are not going to be happy to be considered a "public venue". When you do that...you are NOT in church anymore, Dorothy! Remember Jim Crow laws? I do. I remember dogs and fire hoses turned on people who wanted equality. The same people who turned loose the dogs, they would find scripture to back up their view that all men are NOT created equal in the eyes of God. In the South, the legacy of intolerance that was required to justify slavery, lived on...and apparently, the same Spirit invests some Christians today. Don't be misled. Please pass the bill and vote for equal rights.

**From:** kirkfritz [<mailto:kirkfritz@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:29 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session; Rep. Rida Cabanilla  
**Cc:** [rachellyonfritz@hotmail.com](mailto:rachellyonfritz@hotmail.com); [i12ciz@aol.com](mailto:i12ciz@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Against SB1

I, Kirk David Fritz, voice my opposition to SB1.

It was said yesterday that NO addition benefits are offered to gay couples comparing civil unions to legal marriage.

Why then is the issue even being addressed if equality is already achieved?

This is simply a matter of semantics and ultimately fractionalizes the sanctity of marriage as traditionally defined, which was already voted on and affirmed as one man and one woman.

I strongly oppose SB1, and I am appalled by representatives not listening to their district's voters and placing the governor's agenda ahead of the citizen's spoken opinion.

I hope that the House does what it is supposed to do and speak for the people by not allowing SB1 to pass.

Mahalo

Kirk Fritz

Ewa Beach

To: Chair Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee and Chair Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee

Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00a.m.

From: Daryl Yamada

City, State: Mililani, HI

Subject:

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL SESSION AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BILL,  
SB1 Relating to Equal Rights**

**Dear Chair Rhoads & Chair Luke:**

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage, SB1 Relating to Equal Rights. I oppose the special session because it rushes the democratic process and does not give we, the people, sufficient input in the legislative process.

I oppose this bill because it will infringe upon our freedoms protected under the First Amendment and will have far reaching consequences that nobody seems to be discussing. Whether it is freedom of speech, education or employment, this bill will impact our future and forever change our history, customs, and culture. Finally, we voted on 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.

Signature: 

To: House Committee on Judiciary and Finance

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

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 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.

Kristine Brown

Honolulu, HI 96825

To: Chair Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee and Chair Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee

Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00a.m.

From: Claudie Yamada

City, State: Mililani HI

Subject:

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL SESSION AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BILL,  
SB1 Relating to Equal Rights**

**Dear Chair Rhoads & Chair Luke:**

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage, SB1 Relating to Equal Rights. I oppose the special session because it rushes the democratic process and does not give we, the people, sufficient input in the legislative process.

I oppose this bill because it will infringe upon our freedoms protected under the First Amendment and will have far reaching consequences that nobody seems to be discussing. Whether it is freedom of speech, education or employment, this bill will impact our future and forever change our history, customs, and culture. Finally, we voted on 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.

Signature: Claudie Yamada

**From:** Charleen Kageno [<mailto:ckageno@hotmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:42 AM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** OPPOSE SB 1

Judiciary Special Session Members,

As a Hawaii voting resident, I implore you to reject SB 1 which would redefine the sanctity of marriage between one man and one woman. As a recent retiree with more than 30+ years teaching in the public schools, I fear for the the lifelong, damaging repercussions that this bill will have on our children and society as well.

Passing this bill would intrude upon the parameters that traditional families have raised their children on. By legalizing same-sex "marriage," the State becomes its official and active promoter. Public schools will be ordered to teach its acceptability to our children, and objecting parents will have little or no control over this State initiated "morality." Christians and all people of good will, by order of the State of Hawaii, will be expected to betray their consciences by condoning, through silence or act, an attack on the natural order and Christian morality.

Civil laws are structuring principles of man's life in society. As such, these laws play an important and decisive role in influencing patterns of thought and behavior. They externally shape the life of society, but also profoundly modify everyone's perception and evaluation of forms of behavior.

SB 1 will obscure basic moral values, devalue traditional marriage, and in effect, weaken public morality. It will hurt our children, our families ... forever! Passing this bill will remove parental rights. Passing this bill will remove my freedom of religion right. Passing this bill, would, in my eyes, legalize a sin! Please protect what we know as truth ... traditional marriage between one man and one woman. OPPOSE SB 1.

Sincerely,

Charleen Kageno  
95-1584 Ainamakua Dr.  
Mililani, HI 96789

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Clarence Kaai	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: We the people ask that you bring this to the people for a vote as or Elected official you have the obligation to bring it to the people. For this could effect the lives of many. And if the people have change their minds then so be it But at least it was the people that have chosen. And not a politician.

Karl Rhoads,  
House Judiciary Committee

Chair Sylvia Luke, Chair  
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:

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=-ITZmgfpllo> ). 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

LGBT-INCLUSIVE BEST PRACTICES GUIDE AND POSTERS INSIDE!

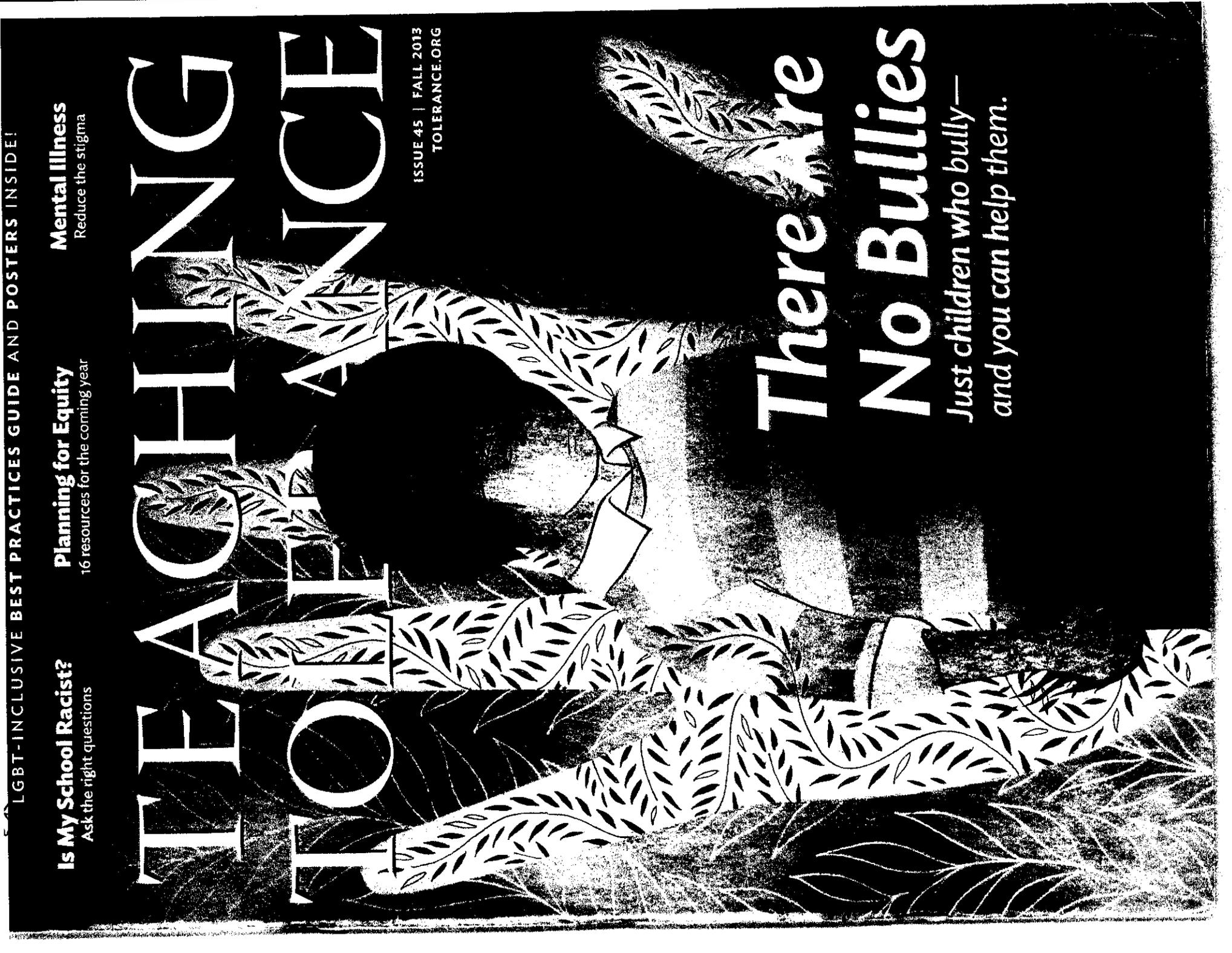
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# TEACHING TOLERANCE

ISSUE 45 | FALL 2013  
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**There Are  
No Bullies**  
*Just children who bully—  
and you can help them.*

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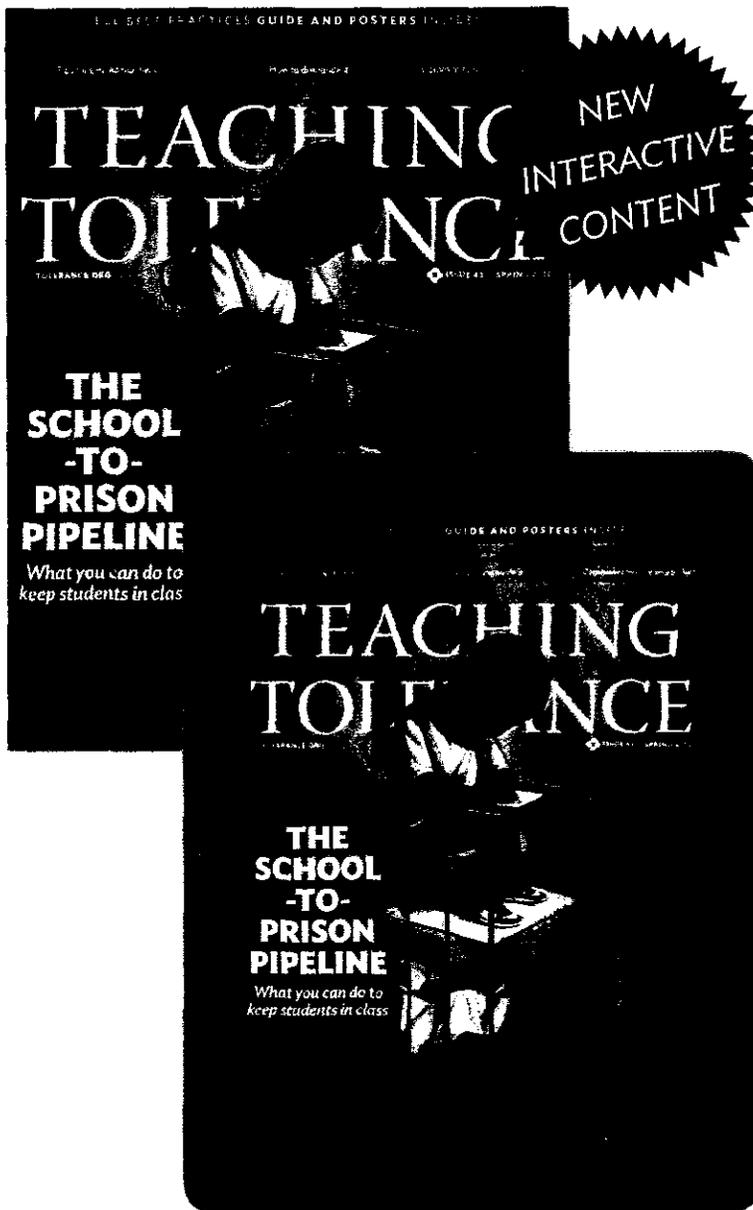
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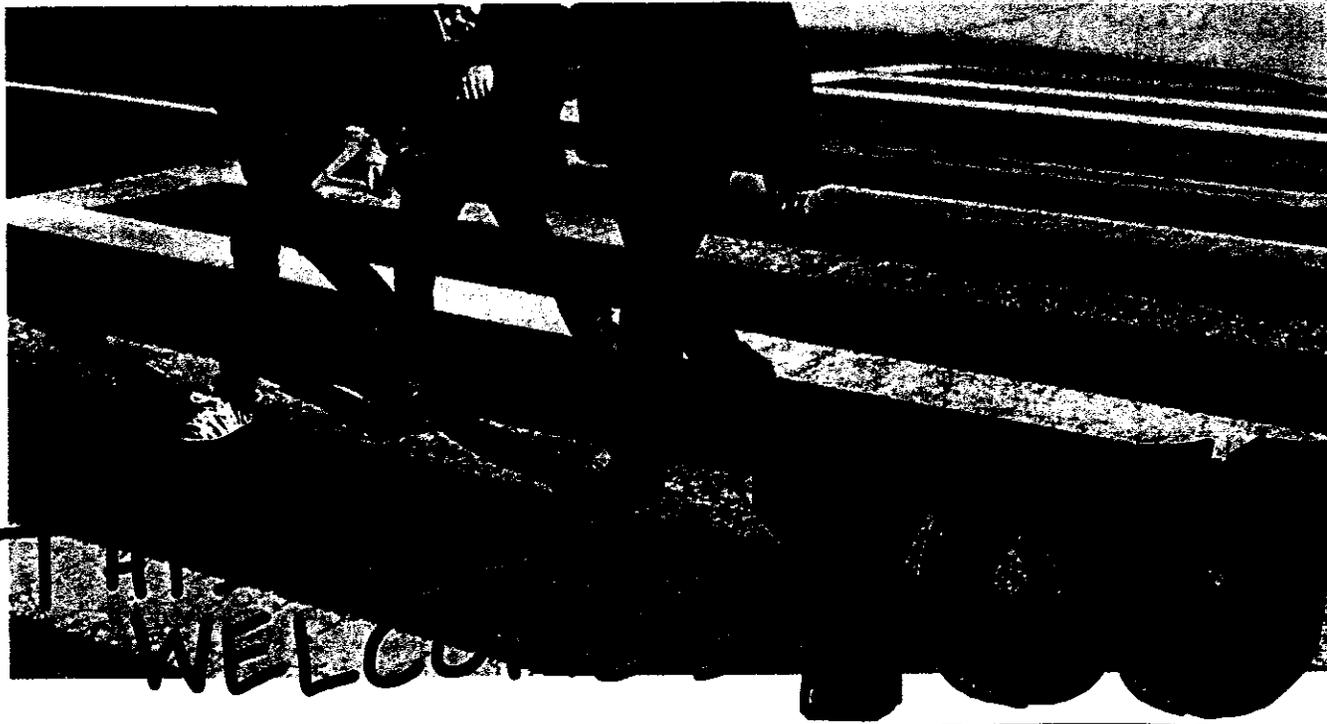
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#### SCHOOLS ARE PLACES OF LEARNING AND

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.

## **A Teaching Tolerance Guide for School Leaders**

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.

➤ 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://tolerance.org/activity/examining-your-schools-climate)

### *Glossary of Terms*

A quick guide to improve your LGBT vocabulary.

[tolerance.org/LGBT-best-practices-terms](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://tolerance.org/therapy-of-lies). ♦



### Toolkit

Understand the daily challenges faced by LGBT students.

VISIT » [tolerance.org/LGBT-challenges](http://tolerance.org/LGBT-challenges)

**From:** Stephen Kaneshiro [<mailto:icastephen@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:37 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** "NO" on Marriage Equality

Public Testimony for the House Joint hearing:

Karl Rhodes, Chair

Sylvia Luke, Chair

House Judiciary Committee

House Finance Committee

**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 Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House 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

Thursday, October 31, 2013

Mr. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee

Ms. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
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:

As a registered voter in the State of Hawaii I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify. The following is an outline of what I will be testifying to:

1. The Same-sex marriage should not be addressed in a special session for the following reasons:
  - A five-day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issues of our time, the amount of time to debate and discuss the issue is far too limited.
  - No amendments to the bill are permitted which circumvents the democratic process.
  - A yes vote during a special session will reflect the will of the governor, the legislators and special interest groups but not necessarily the will of the people of the State of Hawaii.
  - The proposed religious exemption language is rendered invalid because of the public accommodations.
  - The proposed religious exemption does nothing to protect individual business owners, teachers or other citizens right to practice their religious freedom.
  - In 1998 the people of Hawaii voted on this issue and a 70% majority specified that Marriage was defined as

It is my belief that the current bill and the pursuit of it's passing in a special session called by the Governor circumvents my rights as a citizen, violates my right to religious freedom guaranteed by the first amendment of the US Constitution and jeopardizes social fabric of the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Frank de Gracia  
91-1028 Kupekala St.  
Ewa Beach, 96706

I thank you for allowing me to speak to you about my deep concerns for our state of Hawaii. As a Christian, I was taught to love everyone I don't know. This is not about hate or discrimination. I understand the equality issue the people have about benefits. They should have benefits. But I don't agree we need to change the law on marriage to give them these benefits. My concern is how it is going to cause confusion and problems for the next generation. Since we see this happening, this bill should not be passed.

Thank you

**From:** Michael Chinen [<mailto:masaru.chinen@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 10:58 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

Tuesday, October 29, 2013

Mr. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Ms. 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:

As a registered voter in the State of Hawaii I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB-1 at the upcoming Joint House Hearing scheduled for October 31, 2013. The following is an outline of what I will be testifying to:

1. The Same-sex marriage should not be addressed in a special session for the following reasons:

- A five-day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issues of our time, the amount of time to debate and discuss the issue is far too limited.
- No amendments to the bill are permitted which circumvents the democratic process.
- A yes vote during a special session will reflect the will of the governor, the legislators and special interest groups but not necessarily the will of the people of the State of Hawaii.
- The proposed religious exemption language is rendered invalid because of the public accommodations.
- The proposed religious exemption does nothing to protect individual business owners, teachers or other citizens right to practice their religious freedom.
- In 1998 the people of Hawaii voted on this issue and a 70% majority specified that Marriage was defined as

2. Legislators are elected to respect the fundamental Democratic principles provided for in the State of Hawaii and the United States constitutions.

- The people of the State of Hawaii believe that they addressed the issue of same sex marriage in 1998, if there is concern that the will of the people has change in the past 15 years they should be given the opportunity to vote on the issue again.
- Marriage is not a civil right and no court, including the Supreme Court, has ever said that it is.
- The governor and legislators are elected to represent the people and as a result should respect the process that allows their voices and opinion the greatest opportunity to be heard.

It is my belief that the current bill and the pursuit of it's passing in a special session called by the Governor circumvents my rights as a citizen, violates my right to religious freedom guaranteed by the first amendment of the US Constitution and jeopardizes social fabric of the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Michael Chinen

95-202 Naaualii Pl.

Mililani, Hawaii 96789

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jacee-Lynn Smith	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: October 29, 2013 The Honorable Karl Rhoads Committee on Judiciary & The Honorable Sylvia Luke Committee on Finance Re: Support for SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights Hearing: October 31, 2013; 10:00am Aloha Mr. Chairman, Ms. Chairwoman and Members of the Committee: I am in strong support of SB1 Relating to Equal Rights. My testimony is simply, I am a mother and wife, I have two children and my husband and I want our children to grow up in a world that is accepting of good people. I want them to know right from wrong. What is right is to love one another, to be kind to our neighbors, to treat others how we want to be treated, and to extend our help to those in need. These are the reasons why I support this bill and hope with all my heart that we have trusted in the right individuals to lead our state to this greatness. I urge you to vote "yes" to SB 1 and extend to every individual the right to marry a person of any sex or gender that they chose. Marriage is about love, commitment and respect above all else. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 1. I would also like the opportunity to testify in person. Jacee-Lynn Smith

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Jarrod Oda	Individual	Oppose	Yes

-----Original Message-----

From: Jerry Burrell [<mailto:jerandmona@sbcglobal.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:05 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Cc: MONA JER

Subject: Same sex marriage

Mister chairman members of the committee My name is Jerry Burrell I am a new resident and homeowner in Hawaii I have come today to voice my outrage at the handling of such a controversial bill as SB1 is. First you (the governor) call a special session which we the people pay for, then you are going to vote on that bill against the wishes of the people, who have spoken to this issue in a 70% majority. This process is exactly "TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION", and is in its simplest form TREASON. If you allow this bill to pass you and your cohorts are committing treason against the people of Hawaii.

Thank you

Jerry Burrell

Sent from my iPad

RE: TESTIMONY in OPPOSITION to SB1 Relating to Equality

FROM: Dawn O'Brien, Voter in McCully-Mo'ili'ili-Makiki & Media member

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoades & Luke as well as the House Committee on Judiciary /Finance,

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 (SB 1). 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 do one 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 & aloha!

Dawn O'Brien  
Voter & Media Personality  
Makiki-McCully-Mo'ili'ili  
95.5 FM ~ The Fish Hawai'i

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1

TO: Representative Karl Roads, Chair  
Committee on Judiciary  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance

FROM: Gwen Shen 585-2937

DATE OF HEARING: THURSDAY 10-31-13

POSITION: OPPOSE SB 1, RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

I TESTIFY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1

This bill is taking away the privilege, responsibility and right of a parent to teach the child what is right, in accordance to the value of the family in the area of same sex marriage.

When this becomes law of the land, I have no choice and no right to protect my child from the indoctrination of same sex life style. It will not become a homosexual individual's choice which my child can choose to respect, it will become a law that forces my child to comply and accommodate.

This is not equal rights. This is dictatorship.

Let the people decide. Let the majority win.

PLEASE VOTE NO ON SB 1.

Thank you.

Jackie Shen

10-29-13 1:56am

Same sex marriage is not a question on homosexuality or marriage but encapsulates the question of liberty versus state coercion.

Same-sex marriage can never be biologically or socially equal to male-female marriage hence its enforced acceptance opens a Pandora's Box of negative ramifications.

In the states and countries legalizing same sex unions coercion and persecution against private business and individuals have resulted. Propaganda, like quasi educational material promoting homosexuality in public schools has been pushed and if past history is an indicator then the mainstreaming of same-sex attraction will, in time, seek to invade all areas of public, private and religious life.

The curious punitive orthodoxy of power politics swirling around gay marriage and a whole host of minority sexual behavior rely on the division of Americans into smaller and more isolated special interest groups. It ascribes new right and privileges to selected political groups at the expense of the rights and privileges of all people.

Consider the idea of transgender males having a right to use public restrooms reserved for females. The right of the transgender male is expanded at the expense of women expecting their restrooms to be reserved for biological females.

This notion of special rights and privileges have come in many ways to resemble a usurpation of the "No State shall...grant any Title of Nobility." Article I, Section 10, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

In Hawaii, as it has in other states, such protected classes of "nobles" have rights far in excess of common people. These rights result in vague laws arbitrarily enforced by unelected state bureaucrats using a sliding scale of punitive justice.

The ongoing persecution of private businesses and the threat to religious freedom will bring suppression and intolerance not equality.

This inevitable corrosion of constitutional guarantees of speech, private property and religious freedom endanger the freedoms of all people as the *State becomes more powerful with force and tyranny becoming, in the end, the primary benefactor.*

From: Creig Lam, Senior Private Citizen  
To the Hawaii State House of Representatives  
Joint Committee on Judiciary and Finance  
Hearing Date and Time, Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 am  
Re: SB 1  
I plan to testify in person

Honored Members of The Joint Committee

My name is Creig Lam. I am a Senior Citizen of the State of Hawai'i and a voter. While I have no Hawaiian blood quantum, my maternal grandfather was a documented citizen of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, my parents were born citizens of the Territory of Hawai'i, and so I consider myself a keiki o ka 'aina and am grateful to be living in Hawai'i and the United States of America.

With aloha and all due respect to the persons in favor of SB 1, I stand in opposition of that Bill, unless certain protections are further enacted. I ask you to support House Bills 5, 7, 8, 11 and 12. HB 5 and 8, if enacted into law, would preserve traditional marriage, and HB 7, 11 and 12, would protect the religious rights of marriage solemnizers, churches, parents and children with respect to being compelled to participate in certain activities which they might find in conflict with their deeply held religious beliefs

Religion is not something practiced only within the walls of a religious facility, it is a lifestyle that is lovingly lived out in the context of the community. Let not my beloved Hawai'i be a State that would trample upon the Constitutional right granted in the First Amendment which prohibits the making of any law impeding the free exercise of religion, while granting what another group seeks through legalization of what they might consider a right. Please pass the House Bills that I have already mentioned, or if not possible within the time constraints of the Special Legislative Session, postpone action on SB 1 until the next Regular Session of the Legislature to give time for due consideration of its collateral impact on the religious rights of those not seeking that type of marriage for themselves.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you, and for your dedicated service to the people of Hawai'i.

Aloha,

Creig Lam

**From:** William H Lawson [<mailto:whl@hawaii.rr.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:34 AM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** RE: Please do not bring same-gender marriage to Hawaii #2

Dear 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 attended and sat through several hours of the hearings on Monday. The opposition to the bill was 100-1. I only heard 1 solitary person express that the bill would be good for Hawaii and I heard 100 testify that it would not be good. Outside the support for traditional marriage was about the same. But that did not stop the committee from moving the bill forward. It is a mockery of the legislative and democratic process. Do not violate the trust and will of your constituents. We already feel that government is bad enough.

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 2092  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone (808) 528-2525

Email: [WHL@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:WHL@hawaii.rr.com)

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Thank you.

**From:** Charlton SCULLARD [<mailto:charltons@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 11:36 AM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** Testimony for SB1

Charlton Scullard  
1212 Nuuanu Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96817

October 26, 2013

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair House Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair House Finance Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Thursday, October 30, 2013 time TBD

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear House Judiciary and Finance Committees:

Good afternoon, my name is Charlton Scullard. Thank you for the opportunity to share my view on SB1.

1st & foremost, my deep & sincere gratitude & appreciation for you, our legislators and for your service to Hawaii. I understand your task as legislators is not always an easy one, especially with important issue like this one.

Today I am here with a special request: PLS. ALLOW WE THE PEOPLE TO VOTE ON THIS ISSUE! It is far too impactful a decision to be done justice in an abbreviated 5-day Special Session. This decision is not just for our generation, but those still to come.

PLS. DO NOT VOTE ON SB1, but wait for House Bill 5 & GIVE WE THE PEOPLE THE RIGHT TO VOTE!

If this is truly an issue of inclusiveness, pls. simply include & allow we the people of the great State of Hawaii to vote. I urge you to vote NO on SB 1.

Thank you for your time and leadership. God Bless!

Sincerely,

Charlton Scullard  
Hawaii Voter

--

Charlton Scullard

*integrity and character will pave the way...*

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Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee

Ms. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
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:

As a registered voter in the State of Hawaii I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB-1 at the upcoming Joint House Hearing scheduled for October 31, 2013. The following is an outline of what I will be testifying to:

1. The Same-sex marriage should not be addressed in a special session for the following reasons:
  - A five-day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issues of our time, the amount of time to debate and discuss the issue is far too limited.
  - No amendments to the bill are permitted which circumvents the democratic process.
  - A yes vote during a special session will reflect the will of the governor, the legislators and special interest groups but not necessarily the will of the people of the State of Hawaii.
  - The proposed religious exemption language is rendered invalid because of the public accommodations.
  - The proposed religious exemption does nothing to protect individual business owners, teachers or other citizens right to practice their religious freedom.
  - In 1998 the people of Hawaii voted on this issue and a 70% majority specified that Marriage was defined as
  
2. Legislators are elected to respect the fundamental Democratic principles provided for in the State of Hawaii and the United States constitutions.
  - The people of the State of Hawaii believe that they addressed the issue of same sex marriage in 1998, if there is concern that the will of the people has change in the past 15 years they should be given the opportunity to vote on the issue again.
  - Marriage is not a civil right and no court, including the Supreme Court, has ever said that it is.

- The governor and legislators are elected to represent the people and as a result should respect the process that allows their voices and opinion the greatest opportunity to be heard.

It is my belief that the current bill and the pursuit of it's passing in a special session called by the Governor circumvents my rights as a citizen, violates my right to religious freedom guaranteed by the first amendment of the US Constitution and jeopardizes social fabric of the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Peterman  
95-1252 Wikao St.  
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

Monday, October 28, 2013

Mr. Karl Rhoads, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee

Ms. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Finance Committee

**Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

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2. Legislators are elected to respect the fundamental Democratic principles provided for in the State of Hawaii and the United States constitutions.
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  - Marriage is not a civil right and no court, including the Supreme Court, has ever said that it is.

- The governor and legislators are elected to represent the people and as a result should respect the process that allows their voices and opinion the greatest opportunity to be heard.

It is my belief that the current bill and the pursuit of it's passing in a special session called by the Governor circumvents my rights as a citizen, violates my right to religious freedom guaranteed by the first amendment of the US Constitution and jeopardizes social fabric of the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Peterman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark A. Peterman  
95-1252 Wikao St.  
Mililani, Hawaii 96789

To: House Committee on Judiciary and Finance  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:30 a.m.  
Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chairmen and Members of the Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

I am writing in strong opposition to SB 1.

While the freedom to marry the person you love is both desired and understandable, even those supporting this Bill recognize that in some instances, this is not a good idea. Definitely not between blood relations, between disparate age groups, between humans and pets and perhaps even the severely mentally handicapped. I would add that between same sex couples offers a less than positive setting for children—how do they learn the masculine and feminine roles if they have no role models? To say they have other family and community members to see the masculine and feminine roles in action proves the acknowledgement of the need to see both. This has nothing to do with love; it has to do with the order of society in general. What other aspects of our Constitution and “Bill of Rights” are based on feelings alone??

As the opposition states, in Hawaii, we don’t turn our backs on family. But, it does not mean that we give them everything they want either. Many things are withheld for the purpose of order and civilization. That is what law is all about. Keeping from the populace things that might be attractive but are generally detrimental to the good of the majority is the purpose of the Law.

Of course, the government should be in the business of telling people whom they can and cannot marry. None of us want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love any more than we want to be told how fast we should drive or which drugs we should be allowed to use and abuse. But, that is the way of a civilized nation; the good of the many is preferred over the desires of a few.

The question on the table should be: why does the Federal Government not recognize Civil Unions, and then, work to correct that oversight. This is not just a State issue.

Please drop or table this bill that allows for “full marriage equality” and put the issue to a vote of the entire state again. When we voted to let you define marriage years ago, we did not expect you to violate the position of all people of faith in favor of a few who are not willing to be satisfied with Civil Unions. The consequences are much too serious to be rushed through this special session without full input from everyone.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



JoDee Hunt

126 Kaiolena Drive, Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Aloha,

My name is Anthony Suafoa. I am citizen & resident of the State of Hawaii & a registered voter in the Kaimuki Area. I Humbly ask to you to vote NO the bill coming from the Senate, SB 1.

This bill is fundamentally flawed. On the surface it has all the rhetoric & wordage to appear to as if it is very & just. However the exemptions and even the Bill itself goes against the will of the people. The Democratic process is in Jeopardy, however the Senate is doing the minimum requirement to ensure that this proposal stays legal. Honestly, how can the writers of the bill and Senators themselves speak for the people & think for the people is they themselves are not experts at the proposed bill, SB 1, and its affects.

No matter where you stand on the issue, if this bill is passed, life in Hawaii will change. A special session to change life in our State, as we know it, is insufficient to discuss how to change life. The Senate Bill is flawed, the process is flawed, and the people are divided. SB 1 is not and should not be passed to law. The Senate has chose to be oblivious to the fact that there loyalty is to their party instead of to the constituency.

Please allow the People to vote, by shutting down SB 1 and going to the regular session to allow real discussion.

A thought to end on is that, whatever is decided Pass or Fail, someone will be unsatisfied. Therefore since this issue is so controversial and we as the citizens of Hawaii are so divided, the only fair way & undisputable way to settle at this time, is to ALLOW US TO VOTE.

PLEASE, I beg of you to allow ALL of us to make our voice count.

Sincerely,

Anthony Suafoa

623A 12<sup>th</sup> Honolulu, Hi 96816 808 233 8730



JUD/FIN Committies on Judiciary and Finance

SB-1 Relating to Equal Rights

Hearing Date: Thursday, October 28, 2013 @ 10am

I will testify in person

CC to House Clerk, Room 27, State Capitol Auditorium

RE: SB-1 Same Sex Marriage

Please no to Gay Marriage for the following reasons:

Sincerely,

karen

1. **Gay marriage will normalize unsafe sex acts** (homosexinfo.org/sexuality see below)
  - a. 2,000 people died from aids in Hawaii
  - b. Fisting can lead to a life of wearing colostomy bags
  - c. (There are over 10,000 Gay ostomates
  - d. Punctured rectum can lead to a painful death
2. **Common Core Education is in Hawaii Schools**
  - a. Teaches gay sex and Islam only
  - b. Under Islam's Sharia Law homosexuals are put to death or severely punished
  - c. Neil Abercrombie spoke to **Al Jazeera** after a special session  
<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2013/10/28/hawaii-governor-expectsgaymarriagebilltopasswithinweek.html>
3. **"People can Change" is a successful counseling program**
  - a. The book, "Alfie's Home" was handed out at their Ex-Gay Day Parade
  - b. Please see 1 minute YouTube
4. **No sexual behavior or drug can replace the missing nurturing love and affirmation** of an absent alcoholic father or angry controlling mother. We must forgive our parents and our molesters.
5. **God's love Agenda** is different from the homosexual agenda or Agenda 21 which is a DVD.

### HOMOSEXUAL SEXUALITY

<http://www.homosexinfo.org/sexuality>

1. Introduction	10. Sadomasochism
2. Anal sex	11. Zoophilia
3. Fisting	12. Public sex
4. Rectal insertions	13. Sexual compulsion
5. Anal eroticism	14. Infectious diseases
6. Urethral insertions	15. Promiscuity
7. Unusual masturbation	16. Variability
8. Paraphilias	17. Gay slang
9. Pedophilia	18. Comment

Smoking can=lung cancer, drinking can=liver damage and car accidents, unsafe sex acts can=aids.

To: Chair Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee and Chair Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee

Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights

Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00a.m.

From: Karen Goodness

City, State: Honolulu HI 96823

Subject:

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL SESSION AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BILL,  
SB1 Relating to Equal Rights**

**Dear Chair Rhoads & Chair Luke:**

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this special session and the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage, SB1 Relating to Equal Rights. I oppose the special session because it rushes the democratic process and does not give we, the people, sufficient input in the legislative process.

I oppose this bill because it will infringe upon our freedoms protected under the First Amendment and will have far reaching consequences that nobody seems to be discussing. Whether it is freedom of speech, education or employment, this bill will impact our future and forever change our history, customs, and culture. Finally, we voted on 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.

Signature: Karen Goodness

**Ernest H. Hunt  
126 Kaiolena Drive, Kailua, HI 96734  
Phone 262-5930 or cell 225-7408  
silverrotter@hotmail.com**

**October 29, 2013**

**To: House Committee on Judiciary and Finance  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:30 a.m.  
Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: SB1, Relating to Equal Rights**

**Dear Chairmen and Members of the Committees on Judiciary and Finance:**

**I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that I am totally opposed to a special session on this issue as well as opposed to the redefining of marriage to exclude gender. I fully agree with the civil union stipulations already granted and feel this affords sufficient equality without destroying the concept of one man-one woman for traditional marriage. This Bill opens the flood gates to allow all sorts of actions that will totally compromise or violate the wishes and rights of the majority of the populace.**

**When we voted on this issue in 1998, we were assured that the wording implied the Legislature would define and uphold the people's choice of a marriage as of One Man-One Woman. Imagine our surprise when we learned that the intent is now to redefine marriage totally. The vehicle of a Special Session limits our ability to voice our opinions in this regard and we ask that this Bill be tabled until it can be reintroduced in the next regular session.**

**In closing, I thank you for considering my opinion and appreciate all the work you do to represent the voters in your respective districts.**

**May God bless you in your decision making.**

  
**Ernest Hunt**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Tippany Kauanoë-Sagapolutele	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor From: Tippany K. Kauanoë-Sagapolutele Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 Re: Testimony in strong support of SB1 Relating to Equal Rights October 29, 2013 Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor, Thank you for this opportunity to express my strong support of SB 1. I am a 36 year old happily married, Christian, mother of two. I have many friends and family members that are in same sex relationships and believe it is time that they are granted the same rights that my husband and I enjoy as a married couple. There is no proof that a same sex marriage will hurt the sanctity of my marriage, or my family. I submit my testimony on their behalf, and for the future of our state, as this is Hawai'i's chance to accept what many other governments have already recognized as law in their countries. As a Hawaiian, Chinese, Portuguese girl growing up on a U.S. military base in Germany and later Ft. Lewis, WA, my brothers and I experienced discrimination on a daily basis. It was traumatizing and humiliating. In my many encounters with my LGBTQ friends and family, I have come to realize that the experiences I had were miniscule compared to the threats they are accustomed to and in many cases the disownment that occurs when "come out". I realized that I was fortunate to have the support and encouragement of my parents and family, who taught me to overcome discrimination and hate with LOVE. I have growing concern for the children who were blessed to have two moms/dads. My concern is that if Hawai'i fails to recognize their parents as a legally married couple, what will happen to the children if one of their parents falls ill and passes away? Furthermore, what message does that send to the child/children about their parents and the family that has always LOVED them and taken care of them? The definition of family has evolved over the years, especially here in Hawai'i. As a social worker in the foster care system, I witnessed a family being born amongst a married bi-racial military couple from Georgia who wanted to make a difference in this world. They had no relation to the foster children that were placed in their home. All they knew was LOVE, and that is what made them a family. Same sex families are families, nonetheless. They are created by LOVE. They are nurtured by LOVE. They are strengthened by LOVE. Like my family, they LOVE. The rights my family has should also be theirs. I submit my testimony with the idea that LOVE is for everyone. LOVE knows no color, no borders, has no fear and has no end. There is no greater feeling in the world than that of LOVE. If two people LOVE each other, and wish to commit their lives to each other and enter into a marriage, they deserve that right. Lastly, I would like to share with you a statement my father, has repeated to me on several occasions. That is that, "If the man standing next to you breathes the same air as you, he is your equal. He is no better, and neither are you. He is your equal." With that said, I urge you to pass SB1, and allow equality for all. Thank you again for this opportunity. With gratitude, Tippany K. Kauanoë-Sagapolutele

**From:** Susana Choy [<mailto:hawaiianmade@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:06 PM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** Same Sex Marriage bill

I WANT TO HAVE MY VOICE HEARD ON THIS ISSUE THROUGH A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. What is the rush in having to decide this issue NOW? First of all, I don't agree with calling a special session on this one issue when the issue of homelessness hasn't been solved and barely addressed. THAT issue is MUCH more important for the majority of people here in the state. I feel that the special session is a complete waste of our tax dollars when we're running lean on so many fronts.

If the legislature is being forced to decide this issue during the special session then I want the legislature to know that I am unequivocally AGAINST the bill.

I don't have anything against the LGBT community but this issue has been fanned by a minority who have slowly gained power in our city and state government and I feel the Legislature is knowingly pandering to this group. However, I feel that neither the majority of our citizens, nor the legislature, has had enough time to carefully think through the LONG TERM and WIDE REACHING effects of such a bill. What does this mean for the future of our children's education? Will this lead to the indoctrination of such lifestyles in our children's schoolbooks? As an example, is the legislature familiar with what has happened in the Californian education system in regards to this issue? There, children as young as kindergartners are taught to admire homosexuals, transsexuals and bisexuals. There is no opting out. Will same sex couples then be allowed to adopt? If so, is this really the healthiest option for the adoptive children? Remember, orphans will have no say in this nor will they fully understand the situation they'll be placed in. This is currently a very hot issue in France.

The fanatics in the LGBT community WILL push their agenda on everyone else until they're satisfied that they have their way. This will lead to further inequality of our citizenry. There is a large section of our population whose voices will remain unheard in the marathon session. There is no doubt about that. It is a HUGE issue that SHOULD NOT BE DECIDED IN A SPECIAL SESSION. It should not be decided by the very few within our legislature who have not even had the time to open up this issue for discussion among their constituents. This requires thoughtful discussion/debate followed by the people's vote, not by the few who have been swayed by political winds.

I strongly urge the legislature to hold back on making a decision on this bill until next session when more time can be dedicated to exploring this issue.

Sincerely,  
Susana Choy

children as young as kindergarten must be taught to admire persons who engage in homosexuality. - See more at: <http://cnsnews.com/news/article/california-public-school-kids-now-required-study-contributions-lgbt-americans#sthash.3BvCmYRK.dpuf>

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**From:** fbaz80 . [<mailto:fbaz80@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:18 PM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** NO To SB-1

Most people would agree that marriage is an institution that promotes a healthy society. Consideration should therefore be given to disease, crime, economics, and the proper rearing of youth. So, what can we expect from homosexual "marriage"?

The truth of marriage is revealed by the fact that only a man and a woman can naturally reproduce. The bodies of heterosexual partners are made for each other, so their natural use serves to reduce the occurrence of disease and trauma. It is a well known fact that the incidence of promiscuity and STD's in the homosexual community is much greater than among heterosexuals.

The incidence of repeated acts of violence in a 1990 study of 90 lesbians found the 46.6% of them had experienced repeated acts of violence against themselves <sup>(2)</sup>. Meanwhile, a 2001 study found that the incidence of domestic violence among male homosexuals in a relationship, was 18 to 25 percent higher than heterosexuals in a relationship <sup>(1)</sup>.

The procreation and rearing of children; is a natural consequence of true families. We should encourage the rearing of children in homes that are likely to produce the highest rate of success for the children. Males express love through evaluation, correction, and mentoring; while women tend to express a nurturing type of love. Such forms of love are strongly imbued according to parental gender, and are important for good development. To say that the rearing in a homosexual household is no different than in a heterosexual one, is ludicrous. Both genders are necessary. If for example we look at the background of gang members, we find that "demographically speaking, the most reliable predictor of gang activity and youth violence is fatherlessness" <sup>(3)</sup> So, a child with two parents of the same gender, inevitably suffers a profound deprivation.

Encouraging a gay lifestyle, by legalizing marriage among homosexuals will do no favors to the gay community, or to anyone in the state of Hawai'i. It will further burden us all, by draining additional funding for our healthcare, our law enforcement, and our legal system; and, it will promote an imbalanced rearing of our young. We, the people of Hawai'i are smart enough to figure this out for ourselves. Vote NO on SB1. As to what we believe marriage is... Let the people decide!

Frederick W. Bledsoe  
3478 Campbell Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96815

<sup>(1)</sup> Coleman, V. *The Relationship Between Personality and the Perpetration of Violence*, Internet, Abstracted from *Violence and Victims*, Vol. 9, No. 2, 1994.

<sup>(2)</sup> [Gay Domestic Violence Finally Measured](#), *Journal of the Family Research Institute*, Vol. 16 No. 8, Dec 2001

<sup>(3)</sup> Excerpt taken from: "[Fatherless Generation: Redeeming the Story](#)", Zondervan, 2010



-----Original Message-----

From: deana phenicie-aina [<mailto:deana.aina@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:26 PM

To: FINTestimony; Judiciary Special Session

Subject: STRONG OPPOSITION TO SB1

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

I am writing to voice my Strong Opposition to SB1. I see Hawaii rushing into special session because of the Supreme Court decision.

Why? Since when do we in Hawaii rush such an important issue? We don't need to rush this decision.

I am asking you 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 proven by the last vote on this question. 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, opposed that it was brought to a special session bringing unwarranted costs to bear, and 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 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. Marriage is NOT a civil right, and no court (including the Supreme Court) has ever said that it is. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Deana Phenicie-Aina

**From:** Robert Kawakami [<mailto:mpiece@hawaii.rr.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:28 PM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** 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 encourage you to bring SB-1 to the people of Hawaii and allow we, the people of Hawaii, to cast our vote either for, or against the Bill, as we did in 1998. We, those who oppose SB-1, were at a great disadvantage in:

- 1) Having *only six days* to review the final draft for SB-1,
- 2) Being cut from two minutes to testify down to one minute and then being cutoff from testifying at all, and
- 3) Having the Constitutional Amendment that the people of Hawaii had voted for 1998 lined out from SB-1 with total disregard for what we, the people, had voted for.

My hope is that *Rushing this process* through the Senate Committee without listening to the *voice of the people of Hawaii*, was not done to bypass what the people of Hawaii previously voted for and to kowtow to those who are proponents of SB-1.

If your position really is "For the people of Hawaii", then give us ~ *all of us* ~ the people, the chance to have *every voice heard* through the Democratic Process of voting on such a volatile issue that divides us as a State.

My hope is that you would "hear" *every voice* lifted up by the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Bob Kawakami

To: Karl Rhoades, Chair  
House Judiciary and Labor

Sylvia Luke, Chair  
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:

I, Jaime McGuire, first and foremost oppose this Special Session. I also fervently oppose this bill.

First, this bill elevates the state Public Accommodations 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. As written this bill will affect small business owners, judges, and even the "exempted" religious organizations that allow the general public to use their facilities.

Secondly, 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, it is very difficult for you to consider my recommendation because this special session is rushed and only allows for extremely limited hearings, discussions and re-writes

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. I was here to testify in-person on Monday and was not allowed to do so despite my In-Person testimony being submitted on October 25, well before the deadline. 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:** Donovan Hardee [<mailto:tokorosurfboard@msn.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:39 PM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Cc:** Kari Benes  
**Subject:** 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 Donovan Hardee strongly believes that SB 1 should not be passed, but instead the people of the state of Hawaii must have the right to vote on what they want. I believe same sex marriage is wrong and it will change our way of living in the state of Hawaii in a negative way. Without SB 1 our state has always been an excellent place to live in our country and therefore no reason for passing SB 1 is necessary. Declining SB 1 is the way to go for our state of Hawaii where our people of Hawaii can experience true freedom for themselves and their children and the next generation. Lets continue to live out and perpetuate our islands legacy for freedom for many generations to come!

Donovan Hardee  
Mobile: 808-983-9349  
E-mail: [tokorosurfboard@msn.com](mailto:tokorosurfboard@msn.com)  
iCloud: [donovan.hardee@me.com](mailto:donovan.hardee@me.com)

**From:** Joy Horcajo [<mailto:thehorcajos@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 12:57 PM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** Opposition to SB 1 relating to Equality

**10/29/13**

**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**

**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.**

**Joy Horcajo**  
**Po Box 318**  
**Kaneohe HI 96744**  
**(808) 275-7888**

**PS. This is my second time submitting my written testimony since my hand written one was not accepted since the rules changed on 10/29/13.**

Aloha,  
Joy Horcajo  
American Income: MGA  
(808) 275-7888

[www.altig4life.com/joyhorcajo](http://www.altig4life.com/joyhorcajo)

## Testimony in Support of SB 1 – Equal Rights

Aloha, Chairs Rhoads and Luke, Vice Chairs Har and Nishimura, and members of the Judiciary and Finance Committees. I strongly support Senate Bill 1 on Equal Rights.

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 LGBT – lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender –children, **because the bias and discrimination** that hurts our LGBT children and youth everyday in schools and 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.

We are turning to you, our elected representatives, to send a strong, positive and inclusive message to everyone in Hawaii as did the U.S. Supreme Court in its recent decision that struck down section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act. We need you, our elected representatives, to help us to say clearly that our gay family members *and* gay families -- ***have an equal place in Hawaii*** – and to recognize them as the wonderful family members and valuable citizens that they are.

Many people have cast the debate over same sex marriage as discrimination against religious communities. But so many of our gay and lesbian family members and their families are also 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, just 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”.

It is time that our gay ohana be able to have their relationships sanctioned in marriage here in Hawaii, just as our straight relationships are. I look forward to the wonderful day that my gay son can marry his partner **right here at home!**

Thank you!

To the Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Chair Rep. Carl Rhoades ; to the Members of the Committee on Finance and Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke:

My friends and family call me Davina [Sanders]. I am speaking for myself and on behalf of my family. I am writing in regards to Senate Bill 1 "Hawaii Marriage Equality Act 2013" being reviewed this Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> October. I am testifying in opposition to Senate Bill 1 "Hawaii Marriage Equality Act 2013".

My conscience has been troubled by this bill and by the behavior of government officials such as yourselves. Let's start with the latter: I question the call for a "special session" where any reprisal from the people you represent is disregarded due to a time limit (Read Hawaii State Constitution Preamble). I feel betrayed by this so called Governor Abercrombie and you because it seems as though democracy is being undermined by seditious motives and intentions. Who will benefit from this? Is this for the 'greater good'? I always let my children know that with CHOICES whether big or small and good or bad there will be consequences. So, I exhort you to consider the ramifications of your actions and decisions.

As for Senate Bill 1 "Hawaii Marriage Equality Act 2013", I have questions ( If listed, it is of equal importance):

- 1/ So, after reading it, Are the Homosexual Community looking for "federal recognition" through a status change from "civil unions" to "marriages"? Are they trying to build a nation within a nation? or a religion or religious state of there own?
- 2/ Because the Hawaii Constitution Bill of Rights Article 1 Section 23 Marriage defines marriage as being between a man and a woman, then wouldn't that mean "federal recognition" which the Senate Bill 1 proposes would still be disregarded due to this challenge? So what is the proper process of "federal recognition"? What is the point in passing this bill when it conflicts with the Constitution? Doesn't our 1998 constitutional vote matter at all?
- 3/ Because you are considering 'marriage equality' for the homosexual community, then why not polygamist and polygynist as well? How do you accomodate for one and exclude all? Where does the confusion end?
- 4/ So, "public accommodations" includes state and city county properties as well as private businesses too that do 'for profit' activities for the general public? So if the state or city county refuses services of marriage anywhere, they get sued too like religious entities? If so, who pays for this? Must everyone and businesses become a target for lawsuits and redicule? Is this good business sense?
- 5/ When freedom of religion and freedom of sexual preference conflict? Then what sense does law have---not common sense?
- 6/ Just a couple days ago, my friends ( a pregnant mommy and here husband) were violently attacked at their home by an individual because they opposed the bill openly seeking reprisal from you in the mean time through testimonies and petition. So, where is the compassion? Peoples' lives and that of our unborn seem to be at stake literally, what will you do to protect them and us from ridicule and persecution?
- 7/ Have you considered the plight of other states who have passed such a bill? Will you be defining the "new normacy" too through public school education? Is government changing and dictating our morals and sequestering our freedom of conscience for 'convenience'? Why are governments promoting confusion instead of compassion?
- 8/ How does this bill fit in with FAITH? Where does "Divine Guidance" take its rightful place in the

hearts of men? Will the voice of the people be the conscious of the government? Do we perpetuate the life of the land in righteousness or do we disregard it to be accommodating to economic stresses and popular beliefs?

There's more that could be said, but this will suffice for now. On this note, I reiterate: I oppose the Senate Bill 1 "Hawaii Marriage Equality Act 2013".

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Davina Sanders

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Kyle Grace	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I would like to testify in person to oppose SB1 as a very concerned Grandmother and as a seriously ticked off citizen whose vote and voice has been taken away. (I was not able to testify on Monday because they stopped giving out numbers at 2pm!)

**From:** Kathy Schaefer [<mailto:kathyschaefermd@hotmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:24 PM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** Bill SB1

I opposed bill SB1 gay marriage. The people have spoken. In all every state that has put it on the ballot every single one has voted against same sex marriage. It is not good for society and will have far reaching implications. Same sex sexual relations are a perversion. One man and one woman is the best for the society and children. This has been proven for the last 10,000 years. If you think you know better than you are naive. We knew that civil unions would not be enough and that they would push to have it called marriage. Why would you side with the minority to adversely affect the good of the society. Just as on the mainland marriage will not be enough. They will start suing churchs, etc to push their rights. Please listen to the voice of reason and vote no on gay marriage. Gay marriage is not the equivalent to traditional marriage as the moral backbone for children and our nation. It is a perversion. Most gay men are not monogamous to their partner. What is next 3 gay men to get married? There is no end to what they will push. Keep it simple marriage is for one man and one woman. There is a higher incidence of promiscuity, sexual diseases, and suicides. Why would you want to encourage that in our society. Righteousness perpetuates the life of the land.

Sincerely Dr M. Kathryn Schaefer

**From:** Vonda Barber [<mailto:vonda05@hawaii.rr.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 1:51 PM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** Oppose / Reject SB 1

**Importance:** High

The same sex marriage issue is much more than marriage equality. It will dramatically change our society notably in health, business & education with homosexuality being taught in schools starting from elementary grades not only as marriage equality but as a promotion of gay lifestyles & graphic sexual practices as has happened in Massachusetts right after gay marriage was passed. It will violate First Amendment freedom of speech, conscience & religious liberties for anyone who disagrees with any of these policies often accompanied with persistent harassment by radical gay groups.

Accepting same sex marriage is completely redefining marriage as originally stated to be a statement and commitment of unity between one man and one woman. Same sex marriage is a SIN and unethical. It is a violation of our First Amendment rights to have this taught to our kids as acceptable behavior in schools. I see it as very unfair to use my tax dollars to pay for education that rejects beliefs in God and teaches against morality.

SINCE SAME SEX MARRIAGE WILL AFFECT ALL OF US, PLEASE LET US, THE PEOPLE OF HAWAI'I, VOTE ON THIS ISSUE. IF INDEED THE LIFE OF OUR LAND IS PERPETUATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, THEN LET RIGHTEOUSNESS & FAIRNESS PREVAIL BY LETTING YOUR CONSTITUENTS DECIDE ON THIS HIGHLY IMPORTANT ISSUE THAT WILL IMPACT ALL OF US.

I strongly urge you to oppose Senate Bill 1.

Sincerely,

Vonda Barber  
[vonda05@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:vonda05@hawaii.rr.com)

Dear Honorable Representatives of the Joint House Committee of Judiciary and the Committee on Finance,

My name is Michele Okimura and I was born and raised here in Hawaii. I am opposed to Same Sex Marriage and legalizing Same Sex Marriage in this special session. As a pastor at Hope Chapel Lifespring, I represent approximately 50 people. As a former public school teacher, I am gravely concerned at the negative impact this legislation will have on our educational system, and our children. I strongly believe that if passed, this bill will negatively affect our state.

On Monday's hearing a few days ago, I observed that some senators there were not aware of important facts regarding same sex couples' ability to receive federal benefits if married in other states where same sex marriage is legal, and their lack of knowledge of how same sex marriage has affected educational systems in other states and countries. It became even more clear to me that more time is needed to explore the ramifications of this issue.

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. This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can be properly discussed and examined as all other bills. It is wrong that thousands of years of culture and traditions could be obliterated in just 5 days. I am asking you to allow the people of Hawaii to decide on the issue of marriage, as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people.

In addition, the religious exemption language does not adequately protect our religious organizations and their affiliates, thereby violating First Amendment protections under the US Constitution.

I respectfully ask that you vote no on this bill and re-introduce it during the regular session, allowing the public to be heard.

I humbly ask that you consider my voice.

Sincerely,

Michele Okimura  
3354 East Manoa Road  
Honolulu, HI 96822

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Karen Maluo	Individual	Oppose	Yes

**From:** Timothy Phillips [[mailto:phillips\\_timothy@hotmail.com](mailto:phillips_timothy@hotmail.com)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:00 PM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 1

I humbly request that the State House reject Senate Bill 1.

Senate Bill 1 is a move to undermine the basic foundation of marriage in the State of Hawaii and as such will have a long lasting detrimental effect on this State. Marriage as defined by God and as known and acknowledged for hundreds of year is the covenant made between one man and one woman to become husband and wife.

Senate Bill 1 will redine marriage to allow a covenant between any two people regardless of thier sex. Such a redefinition will destroy the basic family unit of this State and lead to a further deterioration of the basic values that have made Hawaii what it is today.

Marriage between a husband and wife .... a man and woman ... is the right of all and should be protected as such. Senate Bill 1 does not protect this right but rather undermines it.

This issue should be decided by the people of the great State of Hawaii.

Thank You,

Timothy R Phillips  
1124 Kahului Street  
Honolulu, Hi 96825

Aloha Kakou a pau,

My name is Zeni Zenobia Kehaunani Kimokeo Kapahulehua Iese. I am opposed to SB1. I am Kanaka Mauoli. The Hawaii State motto is: "Ua mau kea o ka aina i ka pono" meaning "this land is perpetuated in righteousness". From Ke Akua to na Kupuna to parents to children, as we live righteously we will be blessed abundantly. God (Ke Akua) created all the heavens and the earth. He created man to procreate with woman in marriage so happy, healthy families will fill this earth. Satan, on the other hand, wants to destroy what God has created. Same Sex Marriage is of the Devil-Satan. For all those who vote for SB1 know you are following Satan. A vote for SB1 does not follow the Hawaii State motto: "Ua Mau kea o Ka aina I ka pono". A vote for SB1 will bring much trouble upon this beautiful precious land – Hawaii. All my prayers and the prayers of many are with all those who have the deciding vote to make the righteous decision in the continued perpetuation of Hawaii. Just Know that Ke Akua (God) will continue to bless Hawaii and its people as we live righteously.

To-For-from A Kanaka mea ola (A Living Human Being in word-z) with name,

Zeni Zenobia Kehaunani Kimokeo Kapahulehua Iese

54-185 Hanaimoa St.

Hau'ula, AE God Kingdom

Hawai'i [96717]

Telephone number: (808) 293-5164

Email: [ieset002@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:ieset002@hawaii.rr.com)

**Michael (Mike) Golojuch, Sr., Lt Col, USAF (Ret)**  
**92-954 Makakilo Drive #71**  
**Kapolei, Hawaii 96707-1340**

**October 29, 2013**

**Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair**  
**Committee on Judiciary**  
**and**  
**Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair**  
**Committee on Finance**

RE: Testimony in Strong Support of SB1, Equal Rights

I am Mike Golojuch and I strongly support SB 1, Equal Right for marriage equality for same-gender couples. I service and have serviced on various boards to the support our gay and lesbians family and friends. This includes, but not limited to, Parents, Family, Friends of Lesbian and Gays — Oahu, Dignity Honolulu (supporting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Catholics), Pride at Work, the Aloha Bears, and Honolulu Pride. I am testifying in support of same-gender marriage, which is a positive step to bring equal rights to our gay and lesbian tax paying citizens.

We must all remember that passing SB1 will provide a level playing field for another minority in our society and will allow same-gender couples to receive all their federal benefits in Hawaii. 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 and the federal government.

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.

For those who say we are rushing this issue I do not believe discussing and going over the same issues of equality for our gay and lesbian couples since the 1990s is rushing the issue. I have heard nothing new from those who oppose equality over the years. They have only changed the way to say that our gay and lesbian citizens of Hawaii do not deserve equality. Also, we should never vote on civil rights for minority groups.

**Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair**  
**Committee on Judiciary**

and

**Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair**  
**Committee on Finance**

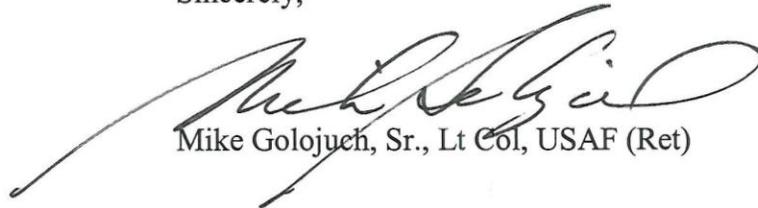
October 29, 2013

Page 2

I urge these two Committees to quickly pass SB1 so the full house can vote on this issue.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on this long-time coming equality issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Golojuch, Sr.", written in a cursive style.

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

**From:** Caroline Ward Oda [<mailto:cwoda@mac.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:07 PM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** Opposed to SB1

To: House Committee on Judiciary and Finance

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

From: Caroline Ward Oda, 88 Wailupe Circle, Honolulu, HI 968231

Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2013

I have some deep concerns about the current same-sex marriage bill 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 promised a year ago that that would be satisfactory and that they would not push for same-sex marriage.

2-This bill is being rushed through without the chance for everyone from the community to have time to dialogue and testify.

3-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 on Thursday. All of these "non-members" are welcome.

4-The fourth reason I ask you to vote against the bill is that by making people of the GLBT persuasion an extended protected class, as the bill does, their freedom transgresses freedom of speech. The analogy that same sex civil rights are similar to women's rights is being made. When voting was extended to women in the 1920's, I believe, and civil rights were extended to women in the latter half of the 20th century, women were not made a protected class to the extent that any crime against them is defined as a hate crime and anything said making fun of them or criticizing them was defined as hate speech. To be fair to that analogy the "protected class" for homosexuality should be equally narrowly defined.

Caroline Ward Oda

[cwoda@mac.com](mailto:cwoda@mac.com)

From: Rick Lazor, Real Marriage Hawai'i  
House Judiciary Committee and House Finance Committee  
The Honorable Chairs Karl Rhoads and Sylvia Luke  
Hearing on 31 October, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m.  
Senate Bill 1  
Testimony Written and In-person (abbreviated)

REAL MARRIAGE HAWAI'I  
760 HALEKAUWILA STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813  
808.782.5329  
REALMARRIAGEHAWAII@GMAIL.COM

## TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO S.B NO. 1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the Committees;

Thank for the privilege of being able to address you.

For me and for everyone whom I know who opposes same-sex marriage in Hawai'i, my reasons for opposition have nothing whatsoever to do with hating homosexuals or attempting to deny equal rights to anyone in these Islands. I have good friends who struggle with sexual identity issues. And it was not long ago that I lost a dear cousin who threw himself in front of an oncoming train rather than deal with the ravages of end-stage AIDS and some of the cruel and concomitant ridicule he had to endure from his neighbors.

I know NO person of faith who is truly a Bible-believing Christian who could remotely be called "homophobe," "hater," "bigot" or any similar term tossed about widely at another recent local gathering; this one at the University campus last Thursday.

Why is it necessary to use such labels for people who simply believe in marriage as it has always been known and as it is now practiced in 92.2% of the nations of the world?

I have my personal, reasonable and time-honored passions for supporting the true definition of marriage to stand intact as it has for thousands of years. You've doubtless heard them all. My own faith, valid social science and healthy cultural tradition support marriage as a relationship between one man and one woman. That, in itself, would be sufficient reason for me to oppose S.B. NO. 1 and/or the bill offered by the Governor.

But beyond those obvious reasons, there are several other issues surrounding this legislation that ought to be disturbing to conscientious lawmakers. I have cause to wonder if your Committee has sufficiently considered them. Allow me to examine with you a few of these.

## THE PROCESS

### THE 1998 AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION.

#### THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE VOTERS THEN; THE EQUIVOCATING OF OUR LEADERS NOW.

Back in the 1990's, the Human Rights Campaign and other similar homosexual activist organizations targeted Hawai'i for special attention in their drives for legal recognition of same-sex relationships. They noted the tolerance of our people and our spirit of aloha (of which we are rightly proud) as favorable vulnerabilities that would make Hawai'i a fertile field for the introduction of this social anomaly.

Hawai'i became a pioneer state all right. With a significant majority, Hawai'i passed the first constitutional amendment in the nation protecting the traditional definition of marriage, or so we thought. 34 states followed after us protecting the definition of marriage.

While 69.2% voted YES on language giving the legislature the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples, there is no question that the overwhelming majority of those supporters THOUGHT that they were voting to preserve the definition of marriage that has been understood for thousands of years. The states after us were successful in adopting clean and simple language to amend their Constitutions. We were not. And today, we see the ramifications of that serious wrinkle in our process.

In fact, our Governor is engaged in some disturbing slight-of-hand on this whole matter on his public website. In the "Frequently-Asked-Questions" section of his pages related to his current bill, one of the questions asked is:

***"Why is this issue subject to legislation instead of direct vote by the people?"***

Similar to David Louie's recent opinion on this subject, (and the obvious understanding of the 1998 majority notwithstanding), the last line in the Governor's answer to that question actually reads:

***"The electorate's purpose in amending the Constitution in this manner was to give the Legislature the power and discretion to amend the law to provide for marriage equity."***

That statement is blatantly dishonest. None of that was the "purpose of the electorate." **First** of all, that majority would rather have had clean language declaring the definition of true marriage. And in 1998, when the State Office of Elections published its required clarification of language on pending issues before voters, they certainly gave voters the impression that their vote would protect the traditional of marriage.

**Q:** Why is this issue subject to legislation instead of a direct vote by the people?

**A:** There are two reasons why marriage equity is properly addressed by the Hawaii State Legislature instead of by a direct vote by the people.

... votes of the Hawaii State Legislature. The provision specifies that any change to the marriage laws after 1998 would be made by the Legislature. The electorate's purpose in amending the constitution in this manner was to give the Legislature the power and discretion to amend the law to provide for marriage equity.

**Secondly**, if the voters intended to "give" the legislature anything, it was not "discretion." It was the power to reserve marriage to one man and one woman, thereby removing that issue from the courts and properly placing it in our law-making body. That's the language.

And **thirdly**, NO one I know from those days intended in their "yes" vote to give the legislature any permission to entertain what the Governor likes to call "marriage equity" (a.k.a., homosexual "marriage").

## ATTORNEY GENERAL LOUIE'S OPINION ISSUED ON OCTOBER 14, 2013

Attorney General David Louie offered an opinion two weeks ago stating that, based on his understanding of the state Constitution, the legislature has the authority to approve of same-sex marriage. Even before I comment on the obvious problems with his written opinion, do you not find it a bit disingenuous that all of you lawmakers and all of us are expected to proceed from this opinion when the very one who authored it was instrumental in crafting the legislation being considered? No conflict here?

And what of the fact that Mr. Louie completely omits language in the civil unions bill (which is now HRS §572C-2) that expresses clearly that the electorate DID INDEED have the expectation that the state would preserve traditional marriage? It reads in part, "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."<sup>1</sup>

The Governor's bill, based on the 2011 civil unions statute, completely strikes that language and Mr. Louie ignores this in forming his opinion. So what then? All we need to do is strike a finding from a bill and then we can proceed as though the voters never held that opinion? On what basis? On what planet?

This obvious omission and others found in the same opinion from Mr. Louie have the same suspect impression as the answer from the Governor as to why the people should not be permitted to vote.

This is disingenuous at the very least; blatantly dishonest at the worst.

## "WE HAVE BEEN DEALING WITH THIS FOR YEARS. IT'S TIME TO DECIDE"

I hear often that "we have been haggling about this issue for decades or for '15 years.'" The truth of the matter is that there was a good deal of activity on same-sex relationship issues in the mid-to-late 1990s and then relative quiet for years after that. Some of that inactivity was due to pressing economic issues after 9/11; some was due to a change in administrations and then priorities. It is NOT really the case that the legislature has been studying this or dealing with it for the past 15 years and can now benefit from the thorough vetting that kind of timeframe might have afforded. The issue is primarily now back "on the front burner" at the insistence of this Governor. And a brief look at some of the actual content of the bill is reason enough to conclude that it is being rushed.

## THE CONTENT OF THE BILL

Two important problems here (there are others related to presumption of responsibility, Hawaiian parentage traditions, et al). ...

## RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS? NOT.

There is no amount of massaging of the "religious exemption" language in either of these bills that will clearly offer protections consistent with (and, I believe, required by) the First Amendment. The reasons are simple. 1) If the truth be told, many of our elected officials are not really interested in such protections; 2) many in Hawai'i government and leadership cannot or will not find their way clear to offer the same conscience protections to individual people of faith that the First Amendment clearly grants,

erroneously assuming that some distinctions based upon the free practice of one's faith can clearly be defined as a violation of equal protection under the law. How it can be reasoned that the First Amendment protects groups of believers in the practice of their faith differently than individual persons is beyond me.

The Governor speaks of the "paradox" of two streams of liberty and responsibility that must coexist, as do the Dean of the William Richardson School of Law and some of our lawmakers. But the only guidance we get from the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission on what sort of application of law can be expected is that allegations of discrimination will only be entertained on a case-by-case basis. No one seems interested in coming to some sort of consensus on how to proceed fairly and consistently before moving into such untested territory. So then what is the rush? There is no way this bill should be passed until this festering issue can be dealt with more fairly and without bias.<sup>2</sup>

Groups with a vested interest in seeing this bill approved (such as the ACLU?) are now attempting to declare that "everything's just fine" now with the churches. "Nothing to see here." Not.

## THE DIVORCE QUAGMIRE

Section 8 in the bill is rarely mentioned by legislators. In fact, some lawmakers with whom this has been discussed have no answer to some very important questions.

Section 8 permits homosexual couples who desire to be divorced to return to Hawai'i to file whether they are domiciled here or not if the state in which they reside does not recognize their marriage. Exactly what will be the responsibilities of the State of Hawai'i after divorce settlements are reached? Who will be paying for enforcement of terms? Who will enforce child custody agreements when one party later complains of non-compliance? one year down the road? three years? At whose expense will property division arrangements be guaranteed? What costs are cared for by the parties and what do Hawai'i taxpayers care for?

Moreover, who among our lawmakers has thought this through? How on earth can this bill be passed this week or next without very clear understandings of these specifics? Or are we to "pass the bill first so we can find out what is in it?" One would hope not.

## THE PREPARATION AND BEHAVIOR OF OUR LEADERS

### PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL CONSCIENCE - NOT FOR LAWMAKERS EITHER?

It is disturbing that lawmakers were told earlier by their leadership that they may vote their conscience on this matter without fear but are now being "coaxed" to vote "correctly." Of course, politics and power plays and alliances are part of the game in this building. But the previous promise of a leader ought to mean something when legislators are being asked to give serious consideration to a matter so grave as to change the meaning of marriage and family.

If I were the President of this Senate or the Speaker of the House, I would be livid over the Governor's previous agreement to postpone this bill until January, only to have him call this session soon thereafter. The members of the legislature need to be treated with no less a sense of decency than they expect from above them.

## DO WE REALLY KNOW WHAT WE ARE DOING?

I also want to express my concern about the lack of seriousness on the part of some being given to the very careful attention a matter of this magnitude not only deserves but also requires.

It has been the mission of many a homosexual activist organization to use a redefinition of marriage as an initial step toward acceptance first and then a demand that homosexual behavior be completely embraced by society on an equal footing with heterosexual monogamy. This fact can be found in the literature and any honest player in the movement knows it.

Yes, for some groups, it IS about marriage.

But for many, it is not. A homosexual friend with whom I enjoy a good relationship told me recently that he personally knows of NO other acquaintances here remotely interested in being married. He has also let me know that he has been sexually involved with at least 250 other men on O'ahu over the years. His words: "Monogamy is just not part of the deal."

For some other organizations, it is about the redefinition of the entire structure of the family for whatever reason. There are legislators in this building who know this to be true as well as staff in the Governor's office.

For still others, this "push" is a good fit for their concomitant animosity toward anything faith-related.

Now if a lawmaker knows these things to be true (that this is about more than "equal rights" or "marriage") and proceeds to vote "yes" on this bill on those grounds, they have themselves to live with. (and hopefully concerned voters in 2014). Only they know, in their heart of hearts.

And, likewise, if a lawmaker does NOT know all this to be the case, and isn't even aware of some of the known attempts by these movements to pressure and compel acquiescence in other states, then he or she hasn't any business casting any vote yet on a matter of this import while not having done sufficient research to come to an informed decision.

We're not dealing here with capital improvement expenditures or collective bargaining contracts or what color to paint the Capitol interior. With S. B. NO. 1 and the Governor's Bill, we are dealing with matters that could indeed call for huge changes in society. The Governor admitted as much during his news conference when asked about the schools.

If one watches ONLY Fox or ONLY MSNBC or reads ONLY Huffington Post or ONLY the Drudge Report, his worldview will be skewed accordingly. A truly informed news junkie would do well to vary her diet and seek some balance before coming to conclusions.

That is even truer for elected decision-makers and exponentially more the case when those decision-makers are about to decide on an issue that has the potential to so drastically change the landscape of our society.

Yet it is shocking how ill-informed some of our legislators and senators are on the impact of homosexual "marriage" on various aspects of society. Conversations and exchanges with some in both houses reveal how little they have studied this matter.

Some seem far more interested in how their vote will look to the leader of their chamber or what alliances they want most to preserve in order to wield power than in doing thorough vetting of their sources of information or doing their own hard work of exploring both sides of an issue like this. Many have. But too many have yet to do so. So how can the vote be taken now?

I think of the informational hearing held here at the Capitol in October 23<sup>rd</sup>. I was glad I came. I was a little disheartened to see that just six lawmakers attended it, two of them part time. The presenters were outstanding: even-tempered, factual and informed. No matter who called the hearing or even which side of this issue one might be on, it would have been worth their time for some number of the other 70 to have shown up. But perhaps they already know all there is to know on both sides of this issue or they are engaged in their own study.

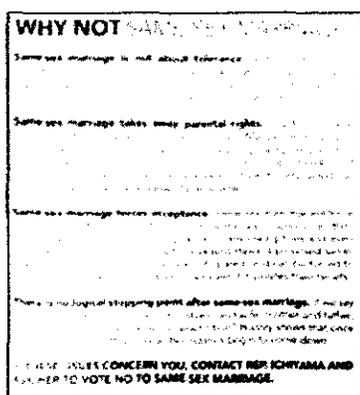
Perhaps not.

After a presentation I recently did, a young businessman approached me with this comment: "What two homosexuals wish to do in their own home is their business; what the homosexual movement wants to do in MY home is MY business. He elaborated that by this, he meant, HIS home, his church, his children's school, his neighborhood bakery.

I urge you on this Committee and your colleagues in the Senate to take more time on this issue of the impact of this legislation and do the hard work of looking at the glaring deficiencies of these bills, (S. B. NO. 1 and the Governor's) and probing the motives and influencers of those who urge a vote either way.

## VERACITY

Finally, if this bill is such a benefit to our life in the Islands and "enlightened" people understand the good sense found therein, I am puzzled by the need some of our highest leaders to have to engage in what seems to be deceit and double-speak and omission in order to garner support for it. This is not related to the substance of the legislation, I know. But it is of deep concern to me. I have already offered a couple of examples of this tendency with our Governor and, to some extent, with our Attorney General.



• Another that comes to mind was the recent spat over fliers printed by a local church and targeted to specific districts where representatives may vote "yes." It included four statements on the possible outcomes of same-sex marriage in society based on experience in other states. 1) official government approval of homosexuality as a natural behavior with citizens and institutions expected to accept that judgment, 2) teaching on same-sex families and homosexuality to even the youngest public school children despite parental concerns, 3) penalties for non-compliance with pro-homosexual equal protection statutes by businesses and institutions and, in some cases, churches and, 4) a concern that homosexual couples are not the end of this. Groups in other living arrangements could clamor for legal standing and required acceptance.

"Hawai'i News Now reporter Mileka Lincoln sought a reaction to these fliers from the Governor's office. As Governor Abercrombie was out of town at the time, Mr. Blake Oshiro, Deputy Chief of Staff spoke for the Governor and stated that ,

*"We think it is unfortunate that they have to resort to fear-mongering in order to try to drum up some opposition. But the "parade of horrors" that they kind of trotted out we think are very misleading because none of those would actually ever really happen."*

Yes they could, and if anyone in the State Capitol knows that, it would be Mr. Oshiro.

- There would also be Governor Abercrombie's contention that one reason a special session is required is so that lawmakers could give sole consideration to this important bill unimpeded by other important matters.

Yet, he was the one who first added additional items to your plates with a slew of nominations. And now matters related to health care funding, collective bargaining and additional issues are coming up.

- Finally, one of my particular pet peeves from supporters of homosexual marriage is the constant invoking of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King every time some speaker or another wishes to turn this into a "civil rights" or "equal rights" issue.

One recent and ridiculous example of this was by (again) our Governor, Senator Schatz and some in our Legislature who were prominently featured at a rally at the Capitol rotunda sponsored by MoveOn.org on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream Speech," on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

(The speakers repeated the oft-heard spurious claims that teenagers with homosexual tendencies are far more likely to commit suicide if they live with parents who don't accept them. (The little secret about this oft-told tale is that research shows that the rate of heterosexual teens committing suicide - IF their parents do not accept them - is nearly identical. Non-acceptance is the sad reality; not homosexuality.))

The Governor, the Senator and others once again re-made the image of Dr. King into their own. And true-to-form nary a word was said about Dr. King's devotion to the Bible as God's inerrant word. Further, we have not one printed word from Dr. King on homosexuality or homosexual "marriage" except for a single response in one of his famous *Ebony Magazine* columns.

In his January, 1958 "Advice for Living" column in the magazine, he took this question from a young man.

*My problem is different from the ones most people have. I am a boy, but I feel about boys the way I ought to feel about girls. I don't want my parents to know about me. What can I do? Is there any place where I can go for help?*

Dr. King's reply would easily place him on the "hate group" register of the Southern Poverty Law Center today. He responded:

*"Your problem is not at all an uncommon one. However, it does require careful attention. The type of feeling that you have toward boys is probably not an innate tendency, but something that has been culturally acquired. Your reasons for adopting this habit have now been consciously suppressed or unconsciously repressed. Therefore, it is necessary to deal with this problem by getting back to some of the experiences and circumstances that lead to the habit. In order to do this I would suggest that you see a good psychiatrist who can assist you in bringing to the forefront of conscience all of those experiences and circumstances that lead to the habit. You are already on the right road toward a solution, since you honestly recognize the problem and have a desire to solve it."*

Would to God that more leaders in 2013 had Dr. King's convictions. More friends and family who would like some kokua with their sexual identity hassles might find needed help rather than a whole segment of society continually yelling in their ears that everything is fine when they know something isn't quite right.

Please vote "no" this week. Further, allow the electorate to decide this issue once and for all. And whatever side of the bill you are on, be honest in your conversation, do good research and treat one another with dignity whatever the outcome of this poorly contrived exercise this week and next.

And as an aside, if you're going to quote Martin Luther King, please quote him correctly.

He wrote from the Birmingham jail just months before his death,

*"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."*

Mahalo nui loa for bearing with me.

Sincere aloha in Christ,

Rick Lazor, M.S.W.

1. from Page 13, Lines 1 to 11 of the Governor's original bill "RELATING TO MARRIAGE"
2. two outstanding current books - on this tension with liberty of conscience and on true tolerance, if you should care to read them...

Os Guinness, *The Global Public Square, Religious Freedom and the Making of a World Safe for Diversity* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press), 2013

D. A. Carson, *The Intolerance of Tolerance*, (Grand Rapids, MI:Eerdmans), 2012.

**From:** Mia Hemmings [<mailto:miahemmings7777@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:28 PM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1

Dear Honorable Chairs, Rhoades and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary Committees,

I am a 65 yr. old senior citizen and our family has been in these islands since the late 1800's - that's over seven generations, and we plan to be here until Jesus comes back!

But the Hawaii we grew up in will be radically changed within a short amount of time if SB1 is passed. Apparently, there is a hidden agenda behind the bill which "the forces that be" in the GLSEN regime are lying in wait to execute. WHY ISN'T THIS HIDDEN AGENDA BEING MADE PUBLIC? It certainly is newsworthy!! It happened in Canada and the States that have legalized same-sex marriage are falling prey to this agenda one by one. **AND WHAT IS THAT AGENDA?**

**IT IS THE ASSAULT ON OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM THAT MANDATES CHILDREN TO BE TAUGHT AND MADE TO VIEW GRAPHIC AND X-RATED HOMOSEXUAL MATERIAL THAT IS UNTHINKABLE TO ANY INTELLIGENT BEING, AND OTHER INSIDIOUS AND PERVERTED PLANS, AS WELL.**

That is what I am most concerned about! These are innocent little children who will be taught about sexual perversion above and beyond their ability to process it! The consequences are unthinkable to our families here in Hawaii.

DON'T THINK FOR A MINUTE THAT THAT WON'T HAPPEN HERE IN HAWAII!!! DO NOT BE DECEIVED! THE AGENDA HAS ALWAYS BEEN TARGETED TOWARDS CHILDREN! AND THE LOGIC IS THIS: NOW THAT THEY ARE ACKNOWLEDGED AS LEGAL, THEY WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO EDUCATE EVERYONE ABOUT THEIR LIFESTYLE AND AAAAAALLLLL THAT IT INCLUDES!

I AM PULLING BACK THE CURTAIN SO YOU CAN VIEW THE FUTURE IF YOU PASS SB1. THINK ABOUT IT. (1 minute / 40 secs. long)

Sincerely,  
Mia Hemmings  
P.O. Box 61844  
Honolulu, HI 96839

**From:** deann burkhart [<mailto:hartquilter@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:30 PM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** Against SB1

Aloha!

My name is DeAnn Burkhart and I am against HB1. The protections offered to religious organization, businesses and private citizens are inadequate. Furthermore, it is not necessary to enact this bill as a follow up to the federal law concerning states recognizing gay marriages legally performed in other states. Hawaii is set up to do this in a legal fashion as any couple may apply for a civil union and receive protections and benefits due such a union. I believe marriage between a man and a woman is a God sanctioned union, any other marriage practice is an abomination to God and me. Therefore, I do believe any two people should receive protection under the law, but only a man and a woman can enter into the sacred bonds of matrimony. Please do not pass this bill.

Mahalo, DeAnn Burkhart

**From:** Gwen Hashimura [<mailto:ghashimura@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 2:42 PM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** Testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 1 (or SB1)

To Whom This May Concern,

**I am strongly in opposition to the Senate Bill 1 (SB1)** and am submitting my testimony as to why!

I believe if this bill is passed we are inviting the wrath of God on our state and country. I am a Christian who lives by God's laws and this is in direct violation of them.

If we desire God's Blessing on America **we must not approve same sex marriage**. It is an abomination to the Lord. Heb. 13:4 says Marriage (one man and one woman) is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

### **God's Wrath Against Sinful Humanity**

<sup>18</sup> **The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness,** <sup>19</sup> **since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.** <sup>20</sup> **For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.**

<sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. <sup>25</sup> They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

<sup>26</sup> Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their **women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones.** <sup>27</sup> **In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.**

<sup>28</sup> Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup> They have

become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,<sup>30</sup> slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;<sup>31</sup> they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.<sup>32</sup> **Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.**

**I am standing up for righteousness sake and appeal to you to not pass this bill**

*Blessings,*

*Gwen*

*"Establish Your Word to Your servant as that which produces reverence for You." Psalm*

*119:38*

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

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. We the people elected you guys to be the voice for the people not voice of the people. This means elected leaders cannot do things without the people's approval.

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 is a very crucial moment of our history and this should not be decided abruptly without what the people of Hawaii want.

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! It is a violation of our right of speech to not let everyone say their opinion about this.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

James Tapulgo

Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Re: **SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY**

For the House joint hearing: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00am

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees:

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 a 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:** Bob Twogood [<mailto:bob@twogoodkayaks.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:10 PM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** SB1 Testimony - Oppose

Aloha,

I am opposed to SB1 for several reasons:

- 1 The 1998 constitutional amendment on this issue is very clear in that it gave the Hawaii State legislature the authority to decide if it would legalize homosexual marriage, but it did not give the legislature the authority to REDIFINE marriage as an institution.
- 2 Those who refuse to learn from history are doomed to repeat it..... In every state in which has legalized homosexual marriage, immediately following that action, and continuing up to today, the homosexual rights groups have followed up legalization with repeated lawsuits to force changes in educational institutions, religious organizations, and businesses to accommodate their activities even if it was against their religious or moral views. This is a tactic that will be followed in Hawaii if this first step is allowed.
- 3 Homosexual marriage will forever alter Hawaii's social structure, so the citizens of this state deserve to have this issue put to a vote of the people, whereby our people, not our politicians can decide if this is a step this state should take.

Aloha,

Bob Twogood  
President

Twogood kayaks Hawaii, Inc.  
134 B Hamakua Drive  
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Ph. 808-262-5656  
fx. 808-261-3111  
email: [bob@twogoodkayaks.com](mailto:bob@twogoodkayaks.com)

[www.twogoodkayaks.com](http://www.twogoodkayaks.com)

**From:** Sharon [<mailto:ssilva7@hawaiiantel.net>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:08 PM

**To:** Judiciary Special Session

**Subject:** RE: SB1

I am writing to register a NO for this bill. It is not a good bill and marriage should NOT be redefined.

Marriage IS between ONE man and One woman. This bill, if passed, would open the door to so many problems that we do not want here in Paradise.

Civil Unions provide equal civil rights to gays. Marriage is not a civil right.....it's an institution.

Please do not pass this bill. The majority of the Hawaii people are against it. Our legislators are supposed to represent US and our desires.....not there own agenda.

Sincerely,

Sharon Silva

1838 Kualono St.

Dear House of Representatives,

I'm writing this in hopes that you would consider my voice as well as many others. Although I am a Christian, I have friends and family members that are gay, lesbian, or bisexual. Their lifestyle is their lifestyle. I'm not one to call anyone out on their sin because we are all sinners in our own way. Yes, I believe everyone has a right to their opinion or lifestyle. I do NOT agree to legalize same-sex marriage. As I have said before, many of my family members and friends who have CHOSEN this lifestyle weren't living this way their whole life. Majority of them have actually changed and are no longer living that way. Being homosexual is a CHOICE; you're not born with a homosexual gene. There has been no scientific research of this being true. If SB1 is legalized then we might as well legalize drugs. To be a drug addict is a choice, it shouldn't be legalized just because it'll be easier or right in the eyes of an addict. Same goes for same-sex marriage, just because they may feel their lifestyle is right, doesn't mean it should be legalized.

We should take this back to how our nation was founded and it was not founded on majority of the legislators vote (60% was NO and 40% was YES...what's left to discuss, it's the peoples voice) or making people feel good and vote for certain legislators...it was founded on faith in God and his Word, who was for righteousness. You were the ones elected because we, the people, had faith in the decisions that you would make. This should not be an issue that you take upon yourself and your beliefs but on what your people believe. This nation began to spiral downhill because of the decisions made by authority, ignoring the people's voices and taking the decision upon your own wisdom instead of the wisdom of God. You may have other religious beliefs or none at all, but when people look back in the past decades it was a pleasant time to live...families had values, things made sense, and actually there was a lot less violence.

My conclusion is that, if not ALL legislators are voting the same on SB1; this should be left to the people to vote. We all live in the state of Hawaii and we should all be able to put our voices in action.

Thank you for all you do for the state of Hawaii as I know this is not an easy decision but please consider all circumstances and even get educated on the things going on in states that this has passed in.

Sincerely,

Ashley M. Medeiros

-----Original Message-----

From: Erica Miguel [<mailto:mariaerica.miguel@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:09 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Testimony SB 1

Karl Rhoads, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair  
House Finance Committee

#### 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 strongly OPPOSE same sex marriage. I am a Christian woman and as many Christians will say the same, marriage should be between a MAN AND WOMAN as God intended.

If Senate Bill 1 should pass, this will take away many of our rights, my rights, my family's rights and my church & rights of my community. I work in the fashion industry, I've worked w/ many models and photographers and designers and I've refused to work with many people due to their sexual origin. I myself am a model/makeup artist. I have a right to refuse. If Senate Bill 1 passes, will then someone sue me for not wanting me booked for the job because they can't make a decent dollar off of a model or they're offended? I don't want to bring my daughter up in this demented world where women marry women and men marry men. It's flat out disgusting. God wants MEN & WOMEN to be in union. Are they damned for hell? I'm not one to condemn and that's Gods position, they all have a chance. But they need to keep their sexuality to themselves and just go on as a couple rather than a "married couple". Our children are confused enough. I will not have my daughter turned in the wrong direction because our leaders made the wrong decision. Please excuse grammatical errors or REPETITIVENESS. I am very passionate about this subject and I am voicing what has to be heard. My family and I belong to One Love Ministries and our church strongly opposes the passing of SB 1.

Maria Miguel  
1339 Liliha Street #215  
Honolulu HI, 96817  
(808) 445-4958

Sent from my iPhone

Good morning Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Har, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Johnson and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance. My name is Judy Kiernan, I am a registered voter from Waipahu.

I am opposed to Senate Bill one because I agree with pastor Ken Hutcherson of Antioch Bible church In Kirkland, Washington who says that homosexuality has destroyed every civilization it has touched and is shameful. He goes on to say, like gambling, porn, alcohol and drug abuse and sex addiction, homosexuality destroys the family like nothing else and eventually the soul, that God turns over to a reprobate mind.

2 civilizations that collapsed because of homosexuality was Rome and Greece and that's where we are headed as a nation.

According to Pat Robertson of the 700 club, Sodom was a town in the bible that God destroyed because they practiced homosexuality. In history there's never been a civilization ever in history that has embraced homosexuality and turned away from traditional fidelity, traditional marriage, traditional child-rearing and has survived. There isn't one single civilization that has survived that openly embraced homosexuality.

To: The House Judiciary Committee  
The House Finance Committee  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Capitol Auditorium  
Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke, and Members of both the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

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.

(Eliana Tanaka)

Thursday, October 31, 2013  
House's Committee on judiciary  
House's Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Capitol Auditorium  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1 – Relating to Equal Rights

Aloha Chairpersons Rhoads and Luke, Vice Chairs Har, Nishimoto and Johanson and fellow committee members,

I support SB-1 related to Equal Rights in regards to marriage equality because I believe that all of my gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender brothers and sisters should be afforded full equality rights as every other American citizen.

Though this is not the only social injustice or civil rights issue that exists within Hawaii today, I believe it is the appropriate time to allow this Legislative body the opportunity to evaluate the Supreme Court DOMA decision ruling deeming the federal same-sex marriage ban unconstitutional and make the determination that Hawaii should become the 15<sup>th</sup> state to recognize same-sex marriage.

More recently, I have been made to feel like I am a second-class citizen and that I do not deserve the rights and benefits afforded to other people because of the person I fell in love with. It has been difficult to hear through the opposition's testimony that I am a sodomite and will cause the end of civilization, as we now know it. If being a tax paying, law-abiding, charitable and hard working individual within our community is wrong then I don't think I want to be part of that civilization.

Sincerely,  
Jamilyn Makaehu  
47-220 Kamakoi Road  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Gregory S Fritz  
91-555 Pupu Street  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706

October 29, 2013

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair House Judiciary Committee  
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair House Finance Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 time TBD  
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

Re: In Opposition to S.B. 1: The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

Dear House Judiciary and Finance Committees:

My name is Greg Fritz and I urge you to oppose Special Session SB1: Relating to Marriage. I am a registered voter, property owner, taxpayer and resident of the state of Hawaii since 2000. I have served 24 years in the United States Army and retired earlier this year after fighting in four different countries to provide others with the freedom to voice their opinions on the laws of their respective lands. I am disheartened to now find these same freedoms eroded here at home.

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 all of 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 have concerns regarding the second and third order effects of the passage of this bill. If the FDA is deciding to approve a medication for public use, they first study the effects – intended and unintended – of the drug through a series of testing. I urge you to look to the States which have had same sex marriage in place for a while; to study the ramification on societies in Western Europe who have legalized same sex marriage; to analyze the long-term effects of same sex marriage legislation in Canada. We must weigh the full impact to our great state and the future generations that will reside here. Will the citizens and visitors be unable to express their opinions and values without being labeled bigoted and accused of hate speech (*Saskatchewan [Human Rights Commission] v. Whatcott*)? Will they be allowed to take part in a reasonable academic debate and express their opinions freely (*Keeton v. Augusta State University*; *Ward v. Eastern Michigan University*)? How will one’s beliefs affect their livelihood? Antidiscrimination laws are raising serious freedom-of-religion issues for churches in counseling, education in secondary schools, the hiring of facilities, and arrangements in housing, conference, and aged-care centers. The new Equality Act in the United Kingdom will make it illegal for any church to prefer faithful Christians in employment, unless they are leading worship or teaching doctrine full-time.

Associate Justice to the Supreme Court Louis Brandeis stated that, “Nearly all legislation involves a weighing of public needs as against private desires; and likewise a weighing of relative social values.” 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

**From:** Lon Malapit [<mailto:877kesu@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:25 PM  
**To:** Judiciary Special Session  
**Subject:** Please Do Not Support SB1 Same Sex Marriage

Aloha,

Please do not support SB1, or any same sex marriage/civil union bill, as we will all pay some serious consequences of homosexuality. We as Christians are to love the sinners, and we do love all people, including homosexuals. However it is God who said in His Word that the behavior of homosexuality is an abomination, an abhorrence, or disgust to Him.

Please learn from our history. We as Christians have an advantage of the Word of God that tells us historically, the consequences of sin on the history of mankind. Nations have been annihilated and punished for pushing God out of our society. For living a carnal life dependent on ourselves, rather than a spiritual life dependent on God.

The bible also tells us of our future, through prophesy, that this world will end as we know it, for we as men have turned away from God and destroyed our own selves and His creation. Please take heed to the Lord's warning.

God says in His Word that:

"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. (1 Corinthians 6:9).

"For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. (Romans 1:26-27)

" 'Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable. 23 " 'Do not have sexual relations with an animal and defile yourself with it. A woman must not present herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it; that is a perversion. 24 " 'Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. 25 Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. (Leviticus 18:22-25)

" 'If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads. Leviticus 20:13

Please call me on my cel ([808639-1261](tel:8086391261)) or email me if you have any questions. I am praying for you.

God bless you.

Lon Edward Malapit

-----Original Message-----

From: [arlyn@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:arlyn@hawaii.rr.com) [mailto:[arlyn@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:arlyn@hawaii.rr.com)]

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2013 3:26 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB1 relating to equality

Importance: High

Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees:

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, this is not an argument about equality. This is about standing for what is ethically and morally right. 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 do not evolve. However, once we start to compromise on truths, it will result in repercussions that will jeopardize our society.

For the sake of our future, I ask that you not base your vote on emotion or what has been sold as politically correct, but to stand for what you know is morally correct and what is truth. Then, the only vote would be "NO".

Sincerely,  
Lynette Araki

**D'AMATO & MALONEY**  
**A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP**  
**PIONEER PLAZA**  
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Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
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[www.benefitslawyers.com](http://www.benefitslawyers.com)

October 29, 2013

House Committee on Judiciary  
House Committee on Finance  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.  
Place: State Capitol Auditorium

RE: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

My name is John D'Amato, I represent the Plaintiffs in *Jackson v. Abercrombie*, and this urges you to vote in favor of SB 1, Relating to Equal Rights.

The 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 and families are given second class status under Hawai'i law 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.

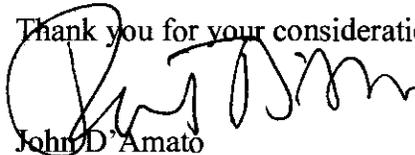
It is said that allowing Gay and Lesbian couples to call themselves, "married," will fundamentally change society in the State of Hawai'i. But through civil unions, Gay and

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 honored in their home 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 its citizens, without regard to their power or popularity.

Rarely do leaders have the opportunity to make a fundamental and historic difference in their constituents' lives. Please take this opportunity to improve the lives of Gay and Lesbian couples and their children better by making marriage equality the law of this State.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Amato". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "A".

John D. Amato

FROM THE PERSONAL OFFICE OF Mr. SJ MELENDREZ, PRINCIPAL  
**GOVERNMENT CONSULTANCY**  
1164 BISHOP ST # 124, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 USA  
Telephone: 808.693.6301, Email: spm.hawaii@gmail.com

**COMMUNIQUÉ # 131027.SB-1 RESPONSE**

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<b>TO:</b> Senator Clayton Hee, Chair Senator S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Committee on Judiciary & Labor	<b>FROM:</b> Mr. SJ Melendrez
<b>LOCATION:</b> Hawaii State Capitol	<b>DATE:</b> 10/29/2013
<b>FAX NUMBER:</b>	<b>TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:</b> (3)
<b>PHONE NUMBER:</b> 808.536.7330	<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b> JDLTestimony-InPerson@capitol.hawaii.gov
<b>REASON:</b> RESPONSE TO BILL <b>SB-1</b> FOR PERSONAL TESTIMONY, STATE CAPITOL 10/28/2012	<b>CC: HONORABLE STATE SENATE AND HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES.</b>

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 diligent 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 am a **Government Consultant**, representing the government to the vendor community and other contracts I and my firm represents the vendor community to the government. I have founded our government consulting firm which as many small businesses in Hawaii 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 also to sit on the **board of directors for non-profit groups** in the State, providing leadership, advisement on revenue generation and risk management.

As many of the business owners and managers across Hawaii, there are many **open questions** concerning the impact of SB-1 to the State to and the People of Hawaii. Whenever I speak with **colleagues from the Rotary & Kiwanis organizations**, or with colleagues of the **Plaza Club, the Honolulu Club or the Oahu Club** and in 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 (only), not in other respects. The Marriage Equality bill is presented as a **"Civil Rights"** issue, Gay marriage is not a civil rights issue but it is a choice of sexual preference and relationship. I am a minority, I cannot change my ancestry or ethnicity, it is a civil right to be who I am because it is not a decision, act of my volition.

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 US which has adopted some form of gay marriage, that increased costs of services provided from the government to the population in health, legal and law enforcement services.

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 if the Obama administration wanted to provide reciprocal benefits, the president with 1 short executive order could 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 leaders and to business owners and company Presidents in contracts and compliance. Many of my office hours are around compliance, in examining SB-1, it is evident that SB-1 requires to be re-written and it is non-compliant to be considered to be a law? There are too many open ended issues, such as:

- Does the legislature have enough information to make informed decisions?
- SB-1 provides special "rights" to a small segment of the community & places in jeopardy the rights of the general population. It denies the civil rights of the General population in favor of the gay community.
- Has the will of the people taken into consideration from previous voting?
- What is the economic, cultural & educational impact upon the State of Hawaii if SB-1 become 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 since SB-1 has such wide reaching effect upon the State government, culture, education and potential to place such a large financial burden on the State, that it is recommended a SB-1 Study be conducted for which would measure the anticipated cultural, financial, legal and educational impact to the State and to the People of Hawaii. This study when completed would be presented to the Legislature. This would assist the legislature to make informed decisions on such important topics in our State History.

The SB-1 Studies would provide the legislature the information that is required to make informed decisions. Currently the information is sketchy and the government clearly does not know the impact that SB-1 would have on the people or the economy.

It is recommended that SB-1 be placed in abeyance and a study be conducted to allow the legislature, State Senate and the Representatives to gain the information which is required to make informed decisions regarding this bill.

I cannot endorse SB-1 for the above reasons and from all indications SB-1 in its current form is bad business for Hawaii. Hawaii is currently in an economic upswing and I and the thousands of other business owners would be very disappointed if the legislature passes SB-1 due to the language of the bill requires revision and the potential negative impacts to the economy the people. Thank you very much for allowing me to present the above..

Best Regards:

Mr. & Mrs. S.J. Melendrez  
1164 Bishop St # 124  
Honolulu, Hawaii 97813  
email: drsjmel@gmail.com

-

**PICTURES FROM ONE OF THE NON PROFIT GROUPS WE SUPPORT, HEALTHY, FREE, FAMILY FUN.**



From: Daniel Gluck  
Honolulu, HI

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Finance

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

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and Members of the Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Gluck', written in a cursive style.

Daniel Gluck  
Kamehameha Heights