

From: Mark Kadota [<mailto:mfk@markkadota.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 10:06 PM
To: Judiciary Special Session
Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Dear Hawai'i State Legislature,
I am so grateful that you are holding this special session around equality in marriage. I hope you will embrace a just and fair action.

Through out our history there have been different minorities denied equal treatment. Over the course of time we have amended many of these groups rights. Those who have stood up for these rights are the heros of humanity. They have seen through the stereo-typing and prejudices and acted in a brave and heroic manner.

I myself have experienced various forms of discrimination through my life-time. Growing up a Japanese/American on the mainland was challenging. As an adult I have been faced with another prejudice. I have been with my male spouse for 17 years. We have been legally married in the Netherlands for 4 years, as they honor same-sex marriages. He is Dutch and because of our laws we are denied recognition as my husband in our beloved Hawaii.

I hope you will vote in favor of Marriage Equality and keep Hawaii a land of Pono ways and a land of Aloha.

Sincerely,
Mark Kadota

Mark Kadota
87-530 Hakimo Rd
Waianae, HI 96792

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Frank Franco	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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.
Frank RN Franco Kahuku and Hawaii

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SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Darrin Araki	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I am opposed to this bill because although the current religious exemptions of SB 1 provides some protection for clergy, religious organizations and their facilities, it makes no mention of protecting the religious freedoms of everyday people that will be affected by the ripple effect of legalizing same sex marriage. According to the current bill, if clergy do not want to participate in solemnizing a same sex marriage, they are not required to do so. But as the education system and its curriculum begin to reflect this same sex legislation, what if I, as a parent, do not want my children to participate in education that promotes alternative lifestyles as "normal" due to my religious convictions, do I have the option to opt out my children from that instruction? If the answer to that question is 'No', then I would ask, "How is it beneficial to society and also Constitutionally sound to grant rights to one people group while infringing on the rights of another? " Without properly addressing these types of questions on the front end of legislation, it makes for a world of problems on the back end as it's taken to our judicial system to address. If one of the goals of good legislation is to minimize foreseeable legal disputes, then shouldn't the proper time and consideration be given to these issues before legislation is passed? I respectfully ask that you thoroughly consider these issues now, before they end up in the courts. Thank you.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Tamara Ulima	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Again, it is important that our youth be allowed to learn the cultures of their fathers without the GLBT movements in public school. It is important that we encourage GLBT marriage equality to function as a religious institution. Protecting all rights of all other tax payers. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Tamara Mo'o Ulima Laie, Hawaii 808-293-1595

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Molly Curtis	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Please give us the opportunity to fight for our rights and vote for a basic and most dear freedom to me -- the freedom of religion. I feel that is being threatened at this point -- not just for our church leaders, but for local citizens who own small businesses who also want to have their freedom to worship how, where, or what they may. The Lord loves us all. He has sent us to earth in family units as the best possible way to live and grow with guidance and love. Fathers and mothers give different talents and benefits. They fit together like puzzle pieces. If one is missing, or a place with a different piece from a different puzzle doesn't fit together properly, nor does it have the same outcome. Therefore the children cannot grow and flourish as the Lord meant it to be. Please help us to support that, as it not only is our belief, but is truth in the eyes of God and men. Thank you.

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Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Shirley Tovey	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Please VOTE NO to same sex-mariage. we need to preserve our family and our children and grandchildren. Please, don't change the definition of mariage (man+woman). God created Adam and Eve so they can procreate life on earth and not Adam and Steve. AGain, think about the future. We need to protect our future. Shirley Tovey Laie, HI 96762

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Francine Cabbab		Oppose	Yes

Comments: October 13, 2013 To: Honorable Chair and House of Representatives: I stand against Bill SB1! Protect the children of Hawaii! Thank you, Isaiah Kuewa - Middle School Student

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SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
steven kauvaka	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31st, 2013, 10:00AM Place: Capitol Auditorium
Re: Strong Opposition to SB1 Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair 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 be properly 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. 60% of all testimony submitted regarding SB1 indicated that the public OPPOSES SB1. This is a clear mandate from the people that SB1 should not advance during the special session. I sincerely hope that you will obey that mandate and vote against SB1. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Steven Kauvaka Laie, HI

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Stephen Crowell	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Stephen Crowell Hauula Hawaii

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
sylvia gedeon	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I strongly oppose this bill and the special session and want to testify before the house.

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SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Roman Pearl	Individual	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1. I am 23 years old and i am concerned about the negative effects this bill will have on the future of my family. Let the People decide.

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Aloha. I am J. Michael Hughes Jr. I was born in Hawaii and I love Hawaii. I am proud and happy to be from Hawaii .
As a young voter of this generation I want to be able to raise a family and children in a morally right culture, where the school system and government don't force them to learn and know something they don't believe in like they do now in Massachusetts. The young voters of Hawaii believe in the culture of Hawaii, The Aloha spirit. We want freedom to live life in a place where the culture has good morals and good values. As the voice of the future we say that we want to live a free life, right morally and right under Jesus Christ. I and 70% of the voters are against same sex marriage and we all believe "let the people decide". We will reflect this strong opinion in all the upcoming elections in Hawaii. We are the voters, the workers and the candidates for the future of Hawaii. People can be what they want to be. We have Aloha for everybody but don't force their lifestyle and morals on our children and down the throats of our future. Keep country country, Keep Hawaii Hawaii, keep family family, and keep Hawaii sacred.
Mahalo and God bless you.

Renald Takeshita

House Judiciary Committee and House Finance Committee

Honorable Chairman Karl Rhoads and Chairwoman Sylvia Luke

Hearing on October 31, 2013 , 10:00 a.m.

Senate Bill 1

Opposed

IN-PERSON AND WRITTEN

And please send me that number to testify as soon as possible.

Dear Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Honorable Members

Please register my strong NO vote for SB1 and same sex marriage.

Thank you

Ren Takeshita

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
liz alarcio	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Please vote NO TO SB1. Please protect our rights, let the people decide. Please vote NO to SB1, for the sake of my unborn grandson, Aden. Thank you so much for your kindest consideration. Liz Alarcio Mililani, Hawaii

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Arielle Tahu	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I oppose SB1. If this bill does pass, there must be broad protections or exemptions provided for religious institutions, businesses, educators, business owners, and others like found in other jurisdictions.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

HEARING DATE: Thursday, October 31, 2013
TIME: 10:00 A.M.
PLACE: Auditorium
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

My name is Theodore Cuyno, a registered voter and resident of Wahiawa. I've been married 42 years, and have three children and two grandchildren. I believe in traditional marriage between one man and one woman. Ten years ago, the people of the State of Hawaii voted that the marriage contract should be only between a man and a woman.

We already have in place civil unions for same-gender couples, who have the same rights and privileges of couples who are married in the State of Hawaii. If these same-gender couples wish to have federal benefits, they have the option to get married in a State whose laws allow same-gender marriages. It is my understanding that these same-gender couples can return to Hawaii and reside in Hawaii and enjoy the same federal rights, privileges and responsibilities of a married couple in the State of Hawaii. For this reason, if the definition of marriage is to be changed to then let the people decide by fair vote.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit my testimony on SB 1.

Sincerely,

Theodore Cuyno
1975 Alai Place #E, Wahiawa, HI 96786

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Steve Tahu	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I oppose SB1. If this bill does pass, there must be broad protections or exemptions provided for religious institutions, businesses, educators, business owners, and others like found in other jurisdictions.

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SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Ata Tufaga	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I oppose SB1. If this bill does pass, there must be broad protections or exemptions provided for religious institutions, businesses, educators, business owners, and others like found in other jurisdictions.

I strongly oppose SB 1, because it lacks certain protection for religious organizations.

It is my belief that the government is becoming increasingly inconsiderate of protections afforded religious institutions within the Bill of Rights. SB 1 appears to hold no protections for these institutions.

I also believe that the institution of marriage is a sacred one between a man and a woman. I understand that those in the LGBT community want protections afforded to them to protect benefits etc., but there have been other laws such as civil unions to address this problem.

While some may be honest in their intentions there are others who seek to disparage and destroy the sanctity of marriage, and my hope is that you will hear my vote of NO.

Thank You

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Keith Ryder	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I am opposed to this special session hearing regarding SB1. why are we rushing this bill through at this point and time? The right thing to do is to let the people of Hawaii decide what is best for us in these Hawaiian Islands, and not allow outsiders to decide the faith of our future. Thank you for your time.

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Marcy Nakamura	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

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SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Ramona Crowell	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Ramona Crowell Hauula Hawaii

October 29, 2013

Testimony

My name is Etalynia Jahier. I'm legally blind. I love Hawaii, and I love God. I love gays and lesbians. I do not support this bill. Please don't change our Hawaii ne. God bless our islands, our home sweet home.

Submitted by Robert Jahier

(Parent of Etalynia Jahier, age 17)

My testimony is as follows:

I completely oppose SB 1 and would not like to see this bill passed. I cannot understand why this bill has NOT come to the people for our vote and frankly, the fact that my vote is being taken away is completely unacceptable. I have listened to many testimonies on the very first day of the session and unless I am not hearing correctly, the majority of these testimonies were opposing SB 1 just as I am.

The people of Hawaii has made it very, very clear that we do NOT want this bill passed, but even louder voices shouted to "let the people vote"! Why does the Governor and legislators who are in favor of SB 1 think that our votes are not necessary? None of the answers given from the legislators or the Governor can answer this simple question, "why can't they let the people vote"? The answers that were given by all of these leaders are missing truths and this is wrong.

The opposition may feel that their right to equality is at stake here, but what is really at stake here is something greater. If this bill passes there will be detrimental ramifications that will cause such a ripple effect, even greater than you or I can imagine. Future generations, long after we are gone, will be bearing the harmful, damaging and destructive results of this decision and the Hawaii you and I were born and raised in and have grown to love will be gone forever, and YOUR posterity will have YOU to thank.

The people of Hawaii (all people) have every right to be given the opportunity to vote on an issue of such vital magnitude and consideration needs to be given to the people. I plead with you to hear my testimony along with thousands of others who feel the same as I do and allow us, the people to use our agency to vote. I believe that you know it is the right thing to do, please listen to your hearts and give this vote back to the people.

Respectfully,

Jacquelyn Franco
92-984 Panana Street #11
Kapolei Hawaii 96707

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

I strongly support this issue being decided by the Legislature not a popular vote. I commend Hawaii's Legislature for accepting this challenge. History has shown us over and over that the public as a whole is reluctant to grant civil rights to minority populations. It takes strong leadership to realize these changes on behalf of those who have been routinely marginalized.

I have gay friends in a long-term loving committed relationship with three children and they deserve to be married as much as I do.

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

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jolie Wanger
964 Honokahua Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96825

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kara Jo Tuiioletai	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I oppose SB1. If this bill does pass, there must be broad protections or exemptions provided for religious institutions, businesses, educators, business owners, and others like found in other jurisdictions.

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Eliza Kahawaii	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I oppose SB1. If this bill does pass, there must be broad protections or exemptions provided for religious institutions, businesses, educators, business owners, and others like found in other jurisdictions.

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SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Arona Tufaga	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I oppose SB1. If this bill does pass, there must be broad protections or exemptions provided for religious institutions, businesses, educators, business owners, and others like found in other jurisdictions.

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Elsie Song	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I am in favor of traditional marriage as it always has been, between 1 man and 1 woman only. Thank you and God bless!

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SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Thomas Stephenson	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Thomas Stephenson Hauula Hawaii

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Testimony Regarding the Opposing of Same-Sex Marriage

Michael Jonas

Hello, my name is Michael Jonas and I am here today to discuss the situation at hand. I once lived an alternate lifestyle. I chose this path to find love, security, and acceptance. After years living this way there was a false sense of reality that still was upon me. And all the years on that path I felt something was not right. It was through deep reflections on my life and coming to grips with my individuality that I made a choice to remove myself from the path I was on. Through an Ohana that loved me unconditionally, I am now going through a process of rehabilitation. With the renewing of my mind I realize that the path I was on was a choice, and not something that was predestined at birth.

Many other voices are going unheard that have had similar stories and know both sides. I am one of those voices that chooses to stand up in faith and request that the people make the final decision regarding same-sex marriage.

The decision needs to be diligently examined and take into all the other changes that will be made regarding the passing of this law. This law will have an effect on our school system, our churches, and redefine the term Ohana, which is important to our island.

The bigger picture in this situation is what has already happened. Our nation has removed cornerstones that our founding fathers have instilled and engrained since our countries birth. The Pledge of Allegiance is no longer said in school, and prayer in school is banned. What's next? Are we, as a state going to add more fuel to the fire by passing this law? Is our state going to deny the people to vote on such an issue as critical as this? I hope our state makes a diligent choice and let the voices of the people decide. I oppose the same-sex marriage law in obedience of my maker, God our Father.

Thank you, for listening to my plea to keep this law from passing and to keep marriage a sacred ceremony between a man and woman. God Bless!!!!

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Arona H Tufaga	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I oppose SB1. If this bill does pass, there must be broad protections or exemptions provided for religious institutions, businesses, educators, business owners, and others like found in other jurisdictions.

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

Thank you for the opportunity for me to express my view on the Bill SB1.

I am an immigrant and now I am a proud American citizen. I love this country because of the traditional American value, the democracy, the goodness, the righteousness, and the truth endorsed by American people. In 1998 when I got my first chance to vote, I voted yes to the 1998 Constitutional Amendment 2, which grants the state legislature the power to prevent same-sex marriage from being conducted or recognized in Hawaii. The results show that reserving marriage to opposite-sex couples is not only my will, but also the will of Hawaii people.

I believed that passing the Bill SB1 is destructive to religious liberty, freedom of speech, and the very foundation of our democracy. Also passing the Bill SB1 against the will of the Hawaii people.

I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage. 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 culture and traditions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely

Minling Pan, Ph.D.

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Ryan Bilimon	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: October 31, 2013 To: Honorable Chair and Representatives: I am a student who is standing against SB1. Thank you, Ryan Bilimon - High School Student

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SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
janeen m kaka	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. janeen m kaka (Enter your City and State here)

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

From: RJ Fernandez [<mailto:roxfernandez@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 10:43 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: PLEASE support marriage equality

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

RJ Fernandez

91-118 Nohoihoewa Way

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Justyn Kaka	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Justyn Kaka Laie Hawaii

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
david georges	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: My name is David Georges and I have lived in Hawaii for 12 years total. I know that doesn't make me a local yet but the wahine I married has graciously given me her local status. She can't be here because she lost the coin toss to have to take the kids Trick-or-Treating. I was here on active duty in the Navy in 1998 when the same sex marriage was voted on at the poles. I am sure that the folks I knew tback then thought that they were making the choice with their vote - not voting to allow the legislature to decide against the common sense conclusion of the vote. So I have to ask - what is the rush? Why is this legislation so important that it has to be rushed, no forced - on the people? Am I to conclude that the legislature knows it won't pass another vote so they are using the most expedient method to pay back those fat campaign contributions that helped put them into office? Are these the same legislators that cry foul when other special interest groups fill the war chests of their opponents? If I am striking a nerve, don't simply ignore it... Act to make it right. Allow the people that voted you into office to vote on this important issue. It is too important a decision, with unknown long term impacts to our society and local way of life, to limit the people that want to have their say. So I explore you, no - I beg you to say no to this special legislation and simply allow all the people to vote and make this decision the proper way. Any other way will only ruin the Aloha that is working to mend the fences between those of so opposed viewpoints.

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SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
David Tovey	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Please vote with me against SB1. This bill needs to be left for the people to vote. Thank you. David Tovey Laie, Hawii

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Special Session

Aloha,

My name is Amy Rose Craig and I am a Special Ed teacher at Kailua High, I've been a registered voter since I was 18 and I am a Hawaii resident since 2006. I am writing to my concern that the voice of the people appears to be ignored in this situation and I am concerned that as representatives who are elected to represent the views of the people, so many of you appear to think that we have no right to vote on such a HUGE issue. I feel like I'm almost in a communist country where we beg and plead and demonstrate for the right to vote...THIS IS AMERICA people died to give us the right to self- govern.

That is my first issue, my second is that I love the gay community and have many friends in it, I don't understand why this isn't about giving civil unions full federal benefits? If those rights are what the gay community need for equality I think that they should have them! BUT the concept of marriage is exclusively from the religious community and cannot be legislated, controlled, or forced. If you want to separate our country's roots from the biblical foundations, fine, but you cannot begin to control those religions. Take the concept of marriage from the federal government entirely, make it so that the only money, benefits or breaks go to the unions that the government and city and county perform and leave marriage to the church. Separate it, but do not dare attempt to control what people believe, you will have another American revolution on your hands.

Mahalo and decide with wisdom,

Amy Rose Craig

Teacher

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Milton Kaka	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Milton Kaka Laie, Hi 96762

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

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 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. You are trying to change a fundamental right in such a short period of time and in which will impact the entire society! To not give it its due process is absolutely absurd and sends the message to the people that you do not care, but have your own hidden agendas.

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 be 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!

Speaking on religious freedom, the bill is too narrow and does not fully protect religious freedom as it should. You basically still limit our religious freedom and are trying to dictate what we can and cannot do REGARDLESS of what we believe. In the words of the bill you only exempt clergymen and so forth from solemnizing and our religious facilities are exempt from SOLEMNIZATION (only) if it's for non profit. What about celebration? We would not want our facilities to be rented out for a celebration that is against our religious beliefs and yet this bill does not protect us – religious freedom DENIED.

This bill still does NOT protect religious universities which are definitely for profit and requires that its students adhere to strict certain religious beliefs, and what this bill does is denies these religious universities the right to act in accordance with their beliefs. Religious Freedom – DENIED.

In addition, this bill does not protect parents from deciding on what their children can and cannot learn in regards to homosexual marriage based on their religious beliefs. You take away parent's rights with the narrow religious exemptions found in this bill. Religious Freedom – DENIED!

The House needs to reconsider the implications of passing such a bill without the proper due process and stronger protections for religious institutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Rosalie Vaka

Rosalie Vaka

Rosalie Vaka

TVA 6101, 55-550 Naniloa Loop
La'ie, Hawaii 96762
rosaliemap@gmail.com
(408)691-1515

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Selai Rasiga	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I strongly opposed the SB1...

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

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 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. You are trying to change a fundamental right in such a short period of time and in which will impact the entire society! To not give it its due process is absolutely absurd and sends the message to the people that you do not care, but have your own hidden agendas.

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 be 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!

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This bill still does NOT protect religious universities which are definitely for profit and requires that its students adhere to strict certain religious beliefs, and what this bill does is denies these religious universities the right to act in accordance with their beliefs. Religious Freedom – DENIED.

In addition, this bill does not protect parents from deciding on what their children can and cannot learn in regards to homosexual marriage based on their religious beliefs. You take away parent's rights with the narrow religious exemptions found in this bill. Religious Freedom – DENIED!

The House needs to reconsider the implications of passing such a bill without the proper due process and stronger protections for religious institutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Unaloto Vaka

Unaloto Vaka

TVA 6101, 55-550 Naniloa Loop
La'ie, Hawaii 96762
rosaliemap@gmail.com
(408)691-1515

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.

Sincerely yours,

Cory



October 29, 2013

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 humbly implore and ask that you allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature has actively resisted the will of the people. I support equality for all including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will utterly destroy thousands of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Please let the people vote on this and vote no on SB1.

I humbly urge to as a dispenser of the truth to make the right decision based on the structural integrity of your position and in the name of democracy. My prayers will be with you to make the right decision.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

In His Service,

Roy Yamamoto
Senior Pastor
Agape Christian Fellowship O'ahu

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
tavitauelese	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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 be properly 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. 60% of all testimony submitted regarding SB1 indicated that the public OPPOSES SB1. This is a clear mandate from the people that SB1 should not advance during the special session. I sincerely hope that you will obey that mandate and vote against SB1. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy! Thank you for the opportunity to testify. tavita uelese hauula hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 11:04 PM

To: House Special Session

Cc: akilori@gmail.com

Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (In Person)

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Aru D Kilori	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Aru Kilori Laie Hawaii

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 11:06 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: naxmoriputae@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (In Person)

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Naomi Taelabu	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. (Enter your Name here) (Enter your City and State here) Naomi Taelabu. Laie

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SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
talagu ahoy	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Talagu Ah-Hoy 55-530 Iosepa St. Laie, HI 96762

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
ELLEN GAY DELAROSA	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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 Ellen Gay Dela Rosa Laie HI 96762

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 11:10 PM

To: House Special Session

Cc: kaleikahawaii@yahoo.com

Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (In Person)

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
terrance kahawaii	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I oppose sb1

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Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Committee on Judiciary

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance

RE: Bill #SB1

Hearing: Thursday October 31, 2013
10:00 am
Auditorium of the State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

My name is Gail Sumner. I am a mother of three and a grandmother of 2. I belong to Praise Chapel Christian Fellowship in Wahiawa.

I am opposed to SB #1, Relating to Equal Rights.

I am against same sex marriage because God is opposed to it in the Word of God. Changing the definition of marriage to include individuals of the same sex, we will greatly weaken the family unit.

These are some of the reasons why:

1. I believe a family needs a father and mother role model for the children. Fathers have distinct male attributes that build confidence and independence in the children while the mothers have unique qualities that build gentleness and security. These approaches help the male and female child understand the world in different ways. They balance each other.
2. Homosexuality is unnatural for procreation. What will happen to mankind if majority of the population decided to marry the same sex?
3. Marriage between same sex couples is a moral issue. It perverts God's original design.

No matter how you include exemptions, it is still sin. And sin corrupts and leads to death.

4. Marriage between one man and one woman sets boundaries that protect each person in the family. It establishes sexual guardrails which are a requirement for successful societies. A man and wife committed for a lifetime was the perfect

plan from the beginning of time. Children were to be loved, nurtured and protected.

Sex was God's idea for consummating a marriage and joining a man to a wife as one. Incest, rape, sex with animals or sex with the same gender were considered perverted sex because it was outside of God's design.

5. Traditional marriage, a union between one man and one woman is the cornerstone of society. Family is the fundamental building block of all human civilization. For thousands of years traditional marriage has proved to keep civilization healthy and thriving. There is no public need for same-sex families.

Same sex marriage meets a personal desire of a few adults, not society as a whole. The gay agenda will force acceptance and normalization of homosexuality on everyone.

6. Redefining marriage will violate parent's rights to teach their children that a man and a woman are different and both are necessary for marriage and for children. Based on recent events, state law and public school education will accuse traditional marriage as old fashion and narrow minded.

7. Redefining marriage in law means that religious freedoms are threatened because the state must promote and uphold the new definition of marriage. Parents will lose the right to disagree from sensitive curriculum taught in school or activities that conflict with their belief and values.

In closing, I strongly oppose the bill because it is not a matter of equality. It is a moral issue that if passed will weaken the family and corrupt our society.

Gail Sumner, 94-804 Lumi Place, Waipahu, Hi. 96797; Phone:
753-8314

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Margaret Anne Nozawa	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: The democratic process has been trampled by the people we elected to represent and protect us. We have been met with ears that will not hear and eyes that will not see the pleas of the people who wish to have the right to vote on this complex bill, SB1. The wording is too vague to properly protect all. The children of Hawaii must now trust their parents and grandparents to protect them as you have failed in your calling. I demand my right as a registered voter to be given the chance to vote on this issue as representative of my many moopuna who as yet cannot.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 11:10 PM

To: House Special Session

Cc: satalapa@gmail.com

Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (In Person)

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
sataelea talapa	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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
sataelea talapa 55-512 iosepa street Laie hi 96762 Satalapa@gmail.com

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Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Margaret Anne Nozawa	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: The democratic process has been trampled by the people we elected to represent and protect us. We have been met with ears that will not hear and eyes that will not see the pleas of the people who wish to have the right to vote on this complex bill, SB1. The wording is too vague to properly protect all. The children of Hawaii must now trust their parents and grandparents to protect them as you have failed in your calling. I demand my right as a registered voter to be given the chance to vote on this issue as representative of my many moopuna who as yet cannot.

October 26, 2013

Senate Committee for SB1

Ben H. Pokipala, Jr.
2115 Tantalus Dr.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senate Committee for SB1,

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons outlined hereafter:

The New Senate Bill Does Not Adequately Protect Religious Liberty

Like the Governor's original bill, the new Senate bill (S.B. 1) enacting same-sex marriage fails to protect religious liberty.

The Senate Bill Does Not Properly Protect Religious Institutions

- (1) Many churches have nonprofit organizations to help them carry out their religious missions, such as religious schools and colleges like BYU-Hawaii. The Senate bill covers only "religious organizations." Unlike protections in other states, it does not protect these other important institutions that are vital to churches.
- (2) The Senate bill protects churches from having to host same-sex marriage ceremonies on their religious properties or in their places of worship, such as an LDS meetinghouse. That is important, but not good enough. Unlike protections in other states, the Senate bill does not protect churches from also having to host same-sex wedding receptions and other related celebrations, or from having to provide other goods and services in connection with same-sex marriages, like marriage counseling.
- (3) Many churches charge fees for the use of their chapels for weddings so they can use the additional money to support important religious activities, such as their youth ministry or program to feed the hungry. The Senate bill excludes protections for churches that do so.

The Senate Bill Does Not Protect Individuals From Being Forced to Support Same-Sex Marriage

The Senate bill would force individuals and family businesses to participate in or support same-sex wedding ceremonies against their religious beliefs:

(1) The Senate bill does not protect photographers and others (whether as individuals or small family businesses) from being forced to directly assist in celebrating same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs. In fact, the bill has no protections for individuals or small family businesses, even if the business is operated according to religious principles.

(2) The Senate bill does not protect county clerks and other government employees from having to perform same-sex marriages against their religious beliefs, even when other government employees are available to do so at no inconvenience to the same-sex couple. Government employees who cannot perform such marriages because of their religious beliefs will likely be fired.

The Senate Bill Does Not Protect Parents

The Senate bill provides no protections for the right of religious parents to remove their children from public school classes that support or promote same-sex marriage or minimize the importance of marriage between a man and a woman.

Respectfully,

Ben H. Pokipala, Jr.

Aloha, my name is Valerie Okimoto. I am a true blue local girl, born and raised on the island of Kauai, and now reside in Mililani Mauka with my husband and two daughters (ages 5 and 10 months). Being from the islands, the Aloha Spirit is a part of my DNA, not something that I do, but a part of who I am. There is no other place that I would call home other than here, in our beautiful island state. It is because of this that I am compelled to submit this testimony AGAINST THE PASSING OF THE SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW. My parents raised me to be respectful to all, regardless of race, gender, religion, economic background. More importantly, however, they taught me to always STAND UP FOR WHAT I KNOW TO BE TRUE AND RIGHT. I testify to you that the passing of this Same Sex Marriage law is NOT THE RIGHT THING to do. In no way I am a "homophobe" (as many call those who are against SSM), in fact I myself have gay and lesbian friends. But, while I do love and respect them, I do not condone nor agree with the life they have chosen to live. I understand that there is controversy even with the word "chosen", for many feel it wasn't a decision. I empathize with their situations, however, my conscience, my mind, my heart, and my morals & values testify to me that this is not in any way the natural course that man and woman were created to take. Many are tearing down those who are faithful in our religions. It is saddening to me to see that the basis that our country was founded upon is being gravely jeopardized, that we who are God fearing are frowned upon. That the Creator who gave us life is shunned and mocked in so many ways.

I implore you to please stop this process, which is in so many levels unethical, unconstitutional, and just morally wrong! We the people have spoken, and the MAJORITY of the people here continue to hold fast to what we know to be righteous, and that is to NOT PASS SAME SEX MARRIAGE. How the minority of the people here are having their voices heard above the SHOUTS from the majority is simply insane to me. On Monday, I along with bus loads of family and friends went to the Capital. With my daughters in hand, we witnessed the enormity of the support of TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE and RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS. I thought that surely the leaders of our state, who were chosen by the people, would listen to the people and if not stop the process, slow it down. I was saddened to see that our cries were not heard. While some cry "equality", I can't help but think this cannot, and will not, ever be a matter of equality. Marriage between a man and a woman is something that was created from the beginning. Only between a man and a woman can this solemn covenant be made, and only between man and wife can children be created, nothing is its equivalent. The negative effects of this bill going through are vast. What kind of world are we leaving for our children to live in? Is it one where democracy is mocked for the benefit of personal agendas? Or, where parents no longer can decide what is morally right for their children? Where teachers are FORCED to teach things that go against their morals? Can you, with a clear conscience, pass this bill knowing that we will all suffer? That the world we are leaving for our children will be full of people who feel entitled, who will disregard others' morals and values, and demand their wants regardless of how it will affect others? This is not any part of the Hawaii that I know and love.

Allow us, the people, to DECIDE! Do not force your agendas on the people of this beautiful State. Please hear and recognize our cries. VOTE "NO"!

Sincerely,

Valerie Okimoto

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to the “equality” bill that is being voted on during this special legislative session. I am opposed to the passing of this bill. I would like to have the people vote on this issue instead of having a small percentage of our community decide for us.

I am not concerned about the way some people choose to live their life, that is none of my business. I am concerned about the way this bill will affect my life, my family, and my right to my beliefs. I do not want to see the rights of my church and my religious leaders be taken away. I feel as though if this bill is to pass our church will not have the right to choose whether to allow same sex marriages to be performed in our church, rather they will be forced to perform these unions even though we do not believe in this lifestyle.

We are not preaching hate, but we don’ t want others to get some rights at the expense of ours. I understand the need for these couples to have the same benefits as traditional married couples do, but please don’ t force us to agree with that lifestyle. Please think of the consequences of this bill and our rights to religious freedom.

Thank you,
Kristy Zukeran

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Kenny	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: God has ordained marriage between man and women. I believe this words from the prophets both past and present

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Nathan Fuluvaka	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Nathan Fuluvaka Laie Hawaii

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Judith Flanders
3003 Kalakaua Ave
Honolulu, HI 96815

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 11:39 PM

To: House Special Session

Cc: krystalfakatava@gmail.com

Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (In Person)

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Esita Fakatava	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. (Esita Fakatava) (Laie, Hawaii 96762)

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Pewa Dela Rosa	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Pewa Dela Rosa Laie, HI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 11:41 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: benjamin.fuimaono@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (In Person)

SB1

Submitted on: 10/30/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Benjamin Fuimaono	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. (Benjamin Fuimaono) (Laie, Hawaii)

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To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Judith Flanders
3003 Kalakaua Ave
Honolulu, HI 96815

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
akapo fiapai	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee 874168 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. Akapo Fiapai Lā'ie Hawai'i

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Joshua Castro	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Elila Levinson
537 Ka Awakea Road
Kailua, HI 96734

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Nina Fiaui	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee
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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
KARENA CHRISTY	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: There are many unintended consequences not adequately prepared for this bill.

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ann Egleston
PO Box 61124
Honolulu, HI 96816

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Esther Pasi	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m. Place: Capitol Auditorium
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Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

michael rubin
1910 Ala Moana Blvd.
apt. 21-A
Honolulu, HI 96815

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Briar Kaanga	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee
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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Sam Moe	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Why are we rushing this bill? We need to save money for the government. Also, this bill affects MANY people yet we are not given the chance to vote on it. Why is that? Why can't our churches do marriages for our members who want to marry someone not of our faith? It's addressed in 572-G of the SB1 bill. Example: if a catholic and mormon want to marry each other, they can marry in either church. If the bill is passed then it enforces either church to marry same-sex couples or face a penalty from the government. One of the main reasons our country was founded was to not let a church run the government. Why are we trying to have the government run all churches on their principles of marriage? That is not right and our political leaders in favor of this bill will one day be held accountable-TRUST ME.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
jennifer mauigoa	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee
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To: House Judiciary Committee

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 know that God lives and loves us. God is intimately involved in our lives. He has said that marriage is between a man and a woman, and sexual purity before and during marriage is essential to the prosperity of this land. God gives us procreative powers which are an essential part of His Plan of Salvation to provide bodies for his spirit children. Any other use of these powers is not part of the plan.

You are concerned, as evident in 572-D, that because of *The United States v. Windsor* you are obligated to adjust the definition of marriage, as we see in 572-1. According to the Opinion of the Court page 2, you still have Section 2, the right of the state to decide (see also Hawaii State Constitution Article 1 Section 23). This is a complex issue that requires multigenerational research to determine. It is still not a scientific fact whether or not gender (a construct) is inherent in sex (a biological trait). 572-C should not be rewritten.

Marriage discrimination is justified in many cases, such as discrimination based on age and consanguinity. The State Constitution states in Article 1 Sections 3 and 5 that there shouldn't be discrimination based on sex. There is no mention of gender.

You are concerned with protecting religious freedom, and hence have included exemptions for clergy. Thank you for 572-E and 572-F. There is an assumption though that religion is comprised of a church and its clergy. This definition of religion is too narrow. A religion is in its people. There is no protection of religious campuses, for-profits such as religious bookstores, for religious business owners, or for religious individuals. Rather than narrow the definition, this definition should be expanded to protect all of these. There should be general protection of the individual's Constitutional right to conscience and exercise of religion both in worship but also in their lives as citizens.

You can stand by the people's 1998 decision, or in the least amend and add to this piece of legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Roberto S. Leon

Laie, Hawaii

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jovelana Muti	Individual	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: To: The House Judiciary Committee The House Finance Committee
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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Oless	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Oless Mauigoa Laie, HI

To: The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
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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 pleading with all of you to allow the people of Hawaii to vote on this most important issue. I have read this bill time and time again and find so many discrepancies.

My issue is that

1)Religious institutions and small businesses will be subjected to rights being taken away and violated.

2)Schools will preach and teach these false "rights" to children with demeaning, immoral and unwanted literature and beliefs causing more young people to participate in lewd and incriminating acts. Taking away a parents freedom to remove their children from schools because of religious beliefs.

How scary is it that when this bill is passed, we will have OUR religious rights questioned through discrimination.

We have already had God slowly taken away from our schools and work, Hawaiian rights issues have still not been addressed and yet we want to shove this down our throats and push it quickly because "these homosexual individuals" have waited long enough is not a clear and concise answer for me to be satisfied with.

I am extremely opposed to both this bill and these sessions. We need to take our time to allow all of Hawaii to vote. Its plain to see that many within the house and senate are ready to pass this through for their own prideful reasons. I beg those with wavering consciences to vote against this bill for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

My solution to this problem is to

1)kill the bill

2)Protect religious institutions completely from legal ramifications pertaining to same sex marriages and not allowing this "right" to be infiltrated and taught in all private, public, and religious schools at all levels.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ashton Saifoloi
Honolulu, Hawaii

Frederick W. Rohlfing
737 Bishop Street, Suite 2600
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

October 31, 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 at 10:00 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

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

Dear House Committees on Judiciary and Finance,

I am an attorney in private practice. I was a member of the Commission on Sexual Orientation created by Act 217 of the 1994 Hawaii Session Laws, which was superseded by the Commission created by Act 5 of the 1995 Hawaii Session Laws.

I am opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because I believe it is contrary to the constitution of the people of Hawaii. Passage of this bill should therefore only be considered following passage and ratification of an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii authorizing the legislature to redefine marriage to include a single-gender option.

I. Background

A. Marriage and the constitution of the people of Hawaii

Marriage during the time of the Kingdom of Hawaii was defined to consist exclusively of one man and one woman. See, e.g., Compiled Laws of the Hawaiian Kingdom (1884), Title 5, Chapter XXVIII, Article LIII. This legal definition of marriage has continued uninterrupted in Hawaii up to the present time. It is consistent with the marriage laws of over 92% of the nations in the world. **Because this understanding of marriage “is made up of men and women, potential and actual mothers and fathers, it is child-centered.”** William C. Duncan, “Speaking Up for Marriage,” 32 *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy* 915, 930 (2009) (bold emphasis added).

The Honorable Karl Rhoads

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It has served in virtually all human societies to encourage men and women who may create a child to take responsibility for that child and for one another. As such, it is the most effective way for society to promote the child's opportunity to know and be raised by his or her own mother and father. Even those married couples who do not have children as a result of their marriage relationship can still provide a mother and father to those who are otherwise deprived of that opportunity. Married couples who are faithful to one another but who do not have children also promote children's best interests by not creating motherless and fatherless children. Finally, marriage promotes the integration of men and women; by treating both as essential to society's most basic and foundational unit, it rejects the idea that men and women, mothers and fathers, are fungible.

Id.

It is both ironic and appropriate that consideration of S.B. 1 by your Committees begins on Halloween of 2013, because it helps to illustrate an important point. When I was growing up on this island, Halloween was almost exclusively an occasion for children to dress up in costumes and go around the neighborhood trick-or-treating. In recent years, Halloween has become more and more an occasion for adults to dress up in gaudy costumes and attend parties. Now, I don't begrudge people the opportunity to enjoy themselves. It is a free country, after all. But it does seem that we've lost some of the innocence and child-centeredness of Halloween in making Halloween more of an adult-centered occasion.

Redefining marriage in a way that moves marriage decisively and irreversibly from being primarily a child-centered social institution to primarily an adult-centered one poses risks that are infinitely greater to our society's well-being than the unfortunate loss of the innocence of Halloween due to its takeover by adults.

Because marriage is such a fundamental institution of Hawaii society, it can be viewed as a key component of the constitution of Hawaii's people. This constitution is spelled with a small "c" because the "term constitution refers both to the institutions, practices, and principles that define and structure a system of government and to the written document that establishes or articulates such a system." Suzette Hemberger, "Constitution," in Joel Krieger, ed., *The Oxford Companion to Politics of the World* (Oxford University Press, 1993), 189.

[T]he American constitution has been described as a written one, the British, as unwritten. If these words are taken literally, they are incorrect. . . . The truth is that both constitutional systems include portions that have been committed to writing and portions that have not. . . . That certain topics receive written statement, while others are left to informal understanding, is of itself a somewhat trivial difference. What surely

matters more is the choice of the content that receives expression in one medium or in the other.

Leslie Lipson, *The Great Issues of Politics: Introduction to Politics* (2d edition, Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1960), 270-71.

In *Baehr v. Lewin*, 74 Hawaii 530, 852 P.2d 44 (1993), the Hawaii Supreme Court vacated a Circuit Court judgment dismissing homosexual marriage claims, and ruled that Hawaii's marriage law allowing only heterosexual couples but not homosexual couples to obtain a marriage license constitutes sex discrimination under the State Constitution's equal protection and equal rights provisions.

Because the *Baehr* case marks the beginning of the campaign to legalize same-sex marriage in Hawaii and incorporates many of the arguments being used today to support the passage of S.B. 1 by your Honorable Committees, I believe it worthwhile to spend some time analyzing the logical errors of Justice Levinson's opinion, which was joined in by Chief Justice Moon.

In the first part of Justice Levinson's opinion, he analyzed the argument of the homosexual couples that the limitation of marriage to heterosexual couples violated the constitutional right of privacy. Justice Levinson noted: "In this connection, the United States Supreme Court has declared that 'the right to marry is part of the fundamental 'right of privacy' implicit in the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause.'" 74 Hawaii at 552, 852 P.2d at 55, quoting *Zablocki v. Redhail*, 434 U.S. 374, 384 (1978).

Justice Levinson's correct resolution of this issue is often overlooked. He rightly held that there was no "fundamental constitutional right to same-sex marriage" because such a relationship is not "rooted in the traditions and collective conscience of our people that failure to recognize it would violate the fundamental principles of liberty and justice that lie at the base of all our civil and political institutions." 74 Hawaii at 557, 852 P.2d at 57. It is ironic that while Justice Levinson relies almost wholly on the holding of the United State Supreme Court in *Loving v. Virginia*, 388 U.S. 1 (1967) to support his equal protection analysis, he nevertheless found no fundamental constitutional right to same-sex marriage, where the Court in *Loving* by contrast held that the prohibition on interracial marriage deprived an interracial couple "of liberty without due process of law in violation of the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment." *Id.* at 12.

It is only after concluding that there is no fundamental constitutional right to same-sex marriage that Justice Levinson gets off the track. Having determined that there was no fundamental constitutional right to same-sex marriage, he then proceeded to examine whether homosexual couples seeking marriage licenses were denied the equal protection and equal rights guarantees of the Hawaii Constitution. Woodenly analogizing from the equal protection inquiry of *Loving v. Virginia*, Levinson declared that Hawaii's marriage license law facially "discriminates based on sex against the applicant couples," thereby

presenting an apparent violation of the state constitution provisions protecting equality. 74 Hawaii at 557-583, 852 P.2d at 57-62. After suggesting that none of the prior cases rejecting homosexual marriage claims had directly addressed equal protection claims, Judge Levinson held that sex is a “suspect category,” and that laws discriminating on the basis of sex must be subject to “strict scrutiny.” 74 Hawaii at 580, 852 P.2d at 67.

B. Critique

1. Justice Levinson failed to understand the historical basis for the *Loving v. Virginia* equal protection analysis.

What is striking about Justice Levinson’s decision is his failure to perceive the crucial distinctions between the Virginia’s anti-miscegenation law and Hawaii’s heterosexuality requirement in its marriage law. This is all the more surprising in view of Justice Levinson’s prior holding that Hawaii’s marriage law did not violate the right of privacy because there was no “fundamental constitutional right to same-sex marriage.” Since there is no fundamental constitutional right to same-sex marriage, the role of gender in Hawaii’s marriage law required more respectful treatment than being summarily thrown upon Justice Levinson’s Procrustean bed of equal protection analysis.

Justice Levinson’s sex-discrimination analogy to the racial discrimination found in *Loving* overlooks the unique type of discrimination that was the specific, emphatic crux of the *Loving* decision: White-Supremacy racism. The U.S. Supreme Court specifically described in *Loving* the White-Supremacist policy that historically and explicitly undergirded the Virginia laws. See 388 U.S. at 6, 7. The Court emphasized: “The fact that Virginia prohibits only interracial marriages involving white persons demonstrates that the racial classifications must stand on their own justification, as measures designed to maintain White Supremacy.” 388 U.S. at 11.

As stated by Cass Sunstein, one of my law professors at the University of Chicago:

The key sentence in *Loving* says that “the racial classifications [at issue] must stand on their own justification, as measures designed to maintain White Supremacy.” This striking reference to White Supremacy--by a unanimous court, capitalizing both words and speaking in these terms for the only time in the nation’s history--was designed to get at the core of Virginia’s argument that discrimination on the basis of participation in mixed marriages was not discrimination on the basis of race. . . . Viewed in context--in light of its actual motivations and its actual effects--the ban was thus part of a system of racial caste.

Cass R. Sunstein, *Homosexuality and the Constitution*, 70 Ind. L.J. 1, 17-18 (1994).

Justice Levinson should have recognized, as Judge Walter Heen did in his dissent, that the identical treatment of both men and women under the Hawaii marriage law makes it consistent with the equal protection provisions of Hawaii's Constitution. See 74 Hawaii at 590-93, 852 P.2d at 71-72. The heterosexual marriage requirement does not discriminate on the basis of sex because it does not "draw a line" between what men and women are permitted to do, or the governmental benefits they may obtain. Men and women are treated exactly the same by the heterosexual marriage requirement. Both genders are equally required to marry only persons of the other gender. It does not give any advantage to one gender over the other.

Justice Levinson's response to Judge Heen's insight is to impatiently refer, without any analysis, to *Loving's* rejection of the equal application argument in the context of Virginia's anti-miscegenation statute. Justice Levinson brushes Judge Heen's objection aside without noting that the Supreme Court in *Loving* did not declare that equal application to both classes was an irrelevant consideration or an unacceptable answer to a charge of violation of equal protection generally. The Supreme Court only rejected the specific equivalence argument in the context of racial discrimination in a scheme designed to enforce White Supremacy.

2. Justice Levinson failed to analyze the marriage institution in relation to equal rights for women

In order overcome the facial neutrality of Hawaii's heterosexuality requirement, there would need to be convincing evidence that the marriage law's intent or effect was to unfairly favor one sex over another. No such analysis was even attempted by Justice Levinson. There is certainly no evidence in the record of your Committees supporting such a thesis.

3. S.B. 1 fails to sustain the gender-integrative role of marriage

For Justice Levinson in *Baehr* and supporters of S.B. 1 today to analogize Hawaii's heterosexual marriage law requirement to Virginia's White Supremacist anti-miscegenation law is ironic. It is the opposite. Refusal to redefine marriage to include a single-gender option does not convey any sexist message about the inferiority or superiority of one gender in relation to the other. Indeed, by requiring one person of each sex, such laws convey an unmistakable message about the indispensable equality, equal worth, and equal contribution of both sexes.

II. S.B. 1 should not be approved by your Committees.

There are three legal responses to actions of individuals. The category concerning least favored conduct can be called "prohibited conduct." This includes activities and associations that the law proscribes, outlaws, bans and forbids--usually by means of criminal prohibition. The second category can be called "permitted relationships and

behavior.” This includes connections and actions that are tolerated, condoned, and allowed. The third category can be called “preferred relationships and conduct.” It includes those relations and activities that are singled out for special approval, encouragement, and preference, including those officially endorsed as fundamental to our society, culture, and democratic way of life.

Historically, homosexual relations have been consistently placed in the prohibited category. However, since the passage of the model penal code in the 1970s, Hawaii has not punished private homosexual relations between consenting adults. Nor does it punish adultery or fornication. Most other states also now take this approach. But only a minority of states have moved to reclassify the status of homosexual relations from “prohibited” to generally “preferred” behavior. That is precisely what the proposal to redefine marriage to include a single-gender option would do. Marriage is one of the oldest and most widely-respected types of preferred, specially protected relations. The demand that homosexual couples be allowed to marry is a demand for special preferred status for homosexual relations. The demand for same-sex marriage is not merely a demand for “tolerance” of homosexual relations. Rather, it is a claim for the highest type of specially preferred, exceptionally secured status that the law confers.

After the Hawaii Supreme Court held in *Baehr* that Hawaii’s marriage statute defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman was presumptively unconstitutional under the State Constitution unless the State was able to show a compelling governmental interest justifying the marriage law, the people’s collective opposition to the Court’s ruling resulted in the Legislature in 1997 passing a constitutional amendment empowering the Legislature “to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples.” Hawaii Const. art. 1, § 23. Subsequently, the amendment was ratified by an affirmative vote of over 69% of the voters in the 1998 general election. The Hawaii Supreme Court thereupon dismissed the case. See *Baehr v. Miike*, 92 Hawaii 634, 994 P.2d 566 (1999) (Table No. 20371) (summary dispositional order reversing and remanding in favor of Miike).

It is reasonable to view the actions of the Legislature and the people in passing and ratifying the marriage amendment as essentially a society-wide endeavor to re-align the written Constitution of the State of Hawaii as misinterpreted by the Hawaii Supreme Court with the constitution of Hawaii’s people regarding the legal definition of marriage.

Some legislators now argue, however, that the legal effect of the 1998 constitutional amendment was to give the Legislature the option of continuing to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman, meaning the Legislature could nevertheless choose to redefine marriage to include a single-gender option. This interpretation of the language of the marriage amendment clearly contradicts the general understanding and intent of the people who ratified the amendment in 1998. This is demonstrably true in light of the express assurance of the Office of Elections in advertisements that ran in newspapers of general circulation that a “yes” vote would give the Legislature the power to “reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples **only**.” The Legislature could then pass a law that would

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
The Honorable Sylvia Luke
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Page 7

reserve marriage to a man and a woman, overruling the recent Supreme Court decision regarding same-sex couples.” “1998 Proposed Amendments to the Hawaii State Constitution,” *Honolulu Advertiser*, 25 October 1998, C3 (bold emphasis added).

Nowhere in any of the materials published or distributed by the Office of Elections before the 1998 general election will you find a statement supporting the interpretation now offered by certain current legislators that after passage of the marriage amendment the Legislature could nevertheless choose to redefine marriage to include a single-gender option rather than as the union of one man and one woman. I therefore believe the interpretation now being urged by certain legislators to justify their support for S.B. No. 1 contradicts not only the constitution of the people of Hawaii (in the broadest sense) with regard to the definition of marriage, but specifically violates the written Constitution of the State of Hawaii as amended in 1998 as well.

And it certainly cannot be argued in good faith that the election of Neil Abercrombie in 2010 as governor expressed the will of the people on this particular issue, since “as a candidate, [he] had promised to sign civil unions into law if elected **but would go no further.**” “Path to Resolution,” *Honolulu Advertiser*, 27 October 2013, A16 (bold emphasis added).

Thus, out of respect for both the constitution of the people of Hawaii, broadly understood, and the written State Constitution as amended in 1998, the State Senate should let the people decide this issue in the 2014 election, rather than pushing ahead by disregarding Hawaii’s constitution and passing S.B. No. 1. As you know, under our State Constitution, the only means whereby the people of Hawaii can directly and collectively express their view on this issue is through the constitutional amendment process. There is no initiative process that would allow the people themselves, without the Legislature’s involvement, to place this issue before the voters. I therefore believe that S.B. No. 1 should be deferred, and only be taken up by the Legislature following passage by the Legislature and ratification by a majority of the voters of an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii permitting the Legislature to redefine marriage to include a single-gender option.

Very truly yours,

Frederick W. Rohlfig

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Feki Pouha	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. 1. Process is flawed. Unfair and unwise to make such a monumental decision to redefine the long-standing sacred institution of marriage, in a matter days. Why the rush? Special sessions are called to resolve a crisis, and none exist here. Worse, the majority voice of the people participating is being ignored, severely undermining the democratic process. 2. Redefining marriage goes to the very fabric of society and therefore should be decided directly by the people, free from the impurities of politics, lobbying and undue influences. A constitutional amendment is needed to decide this issue. Let the people who have to live with the consequences of changing a foundational law, make the law themselves. 3. The bill fails to provide the necessary constitutional protections afforded by the 1st amendment. Religious liberties, freedom and conscience are not protected in this bill against the continuing on-slaught of attacks by gay and lesbian activists. Without significant and specific changes to the exemption language, this legislation will spur lawsuits for years to come and have devastating impact on people and organizations of faith. 4. There is no protection for: a) religious organizations that own, operate and control non-profit entities; i.e. schools, charities, social service providers, welfare centers, etc.; b) conscientious objectors who refuse to provide business services to gay couples because of their deeply held religious beliefs; and c) parents, children and teachers who refuse to expose and teach moral ideologies that contradict religious convictions--to name a few. 5. There is not enough time in a special session of several days to address the many unidentified, uninformed and unintended negative consequences that SB 1 has already overlooked. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Nafetalai N. Feki Pouha Kahuku, HI 96731

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Tia Maria Muti	Individual	Oppose	Yes

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Thank you for allowing my testimony. Forgive me for the informal nature of this letter as I am not familiar with protocol of how to submit testimony.

I am strongly opposed to SB1 Relating to Equal Rights. I do not feel that this bill adequately protects MY FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS as a Christian who believes that marriage is reserved for one man and one woman, as a mother who teaches biblical values to her children and as a small business woman.

This bill is not about equal rights. Essentially, you are telling me that I can no longer practice my faith and teach my children valuable, moral lessons from God. You are telling me that, as a business woman, I can't refuse my rentals to a gay couple if I do not want exposure to that lifestyle. You are telling me that 5% percent of the population, who makes quite a lot of noise, is more important that the other 95% of your constituents whose rights will be compromised. How can this be about equal rights??

Please do not cave to the inside political pressure of a governor who is a bully and seriously misguided in his motives regarding this issue. I pray that your eyes be opened and you see that this is a seriously flawed bill.

Mahalo Nui.

Janet Lee Marlette
2080 Mauna Place
Honolulu, Hi. 96822

Aloha,

My name is Jarom Hao, I am native Hawaiian, and I strongly oppose SB1. I believe in God and in His son Jesus Christ. I believe in His teachings. I know that when we strive to follow them, we will be blessed. Because of these beliefs, I cannot support the proposed bill. Because of the values and morals I have, I will not support the proposed bill. If you believe in God, if you have morals and values, don't forget them in this vote. Many supporters of the bill have stated that values, morals and beliefs have no business in government, nor schools. What kind of state would we be if we did this? This suppression of morals and values are the reason why our nation is in the state that it is in, and why there is so much corruption. If you have any morals or values, remember them when you vote. They say to take God out of everything, schools, government, anywhere public, very soon I fear he may oblige. When did we become an atheist nation? After creating the world, he created Adam. After that, He saw that it was good for man to be alone, so He created Eve. If the union of man and woman were not part of His plan, He would have done otherwise. If there were two men, or two women, you and I would not exist. By supporting this bill, you make a mockery of the sacredness sanctity of marriage. If you do not believe in God, and instead believe in equality and justice, where is the equality in taking away religious freedoms and rights? Where is the justice in forcing a child to be taught to accept homosexuality as normal and natural, when his/her parents believe otherwise? Where is the fairness in passing this rushed bill without written adequate protection of religious freedom, both for churches/religious institutions, and individuals? If you don't believe in God, listen to the voice of the people you represent. Listen to the majority who oppose the passing of this bill. Don't be a puppet, do what you know to be right. Hear the voice of the people and vote accordingly. If this bill passes, not only have you failed the people of this beautiful state of Hawaii, but you have failed that God who created you. You cannot support this bill and walk away with clean hands and a guilt free conscience, knowing that you did not choose what you know to be true, right and just. Knowing that you did not support the people you are supposed to represent.

Mahalo for your time,

Jarom Hao

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
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I am pleading with all of you to allow the people of Hawaii to vote on this most important
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public, and religious schools at all levels.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Dara Saifoloi
Honolulu, Hawaii

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Colette Steele	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Li chen	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

To: The Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Finance
From: Travis M. Agustin, Esq.
Re: SB1
Date: October 31, 2013
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Position: Opposition

Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Finance,

My name is Travis Agustin, I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii. I am here to testify in opposition to the current version of SB 1. There are collateral issues that SB1 does not address. I am requesting that the Representatives adequately discuss how these issues will be addressed if SB1 becomes law.

Marriage Equality or Marriage Equity? On its face SB1 appears to simply grant same sex couples the opportunity to enter into a marriage contract. However, the discussion does not end with simply granting same sex couples the right to marry.

From my observations and my personal experiences from studying in Massachusetts, if SB1 becomes law, the Governor and the supporters of SB1 will seek to achieve marriage equality by implementing an aggressive public policy campaign to change the cultural norms of Hawaii. This process is known as marriage equity.

The Governor has publicly expressed that SB1 is about marriage equity. My concern is that without adequate parameters, pursuing a policy of marriage equity will come at the expense of violating the constitutional rights of Hawaii's citizens.

For Example:

- SB1 provides a limited exemption for religious organizations and clergy members in regards to solemnization of same sex marriages. However, SB1 does not protect the beliefs held by the members belonging to those religious organizations or the content of the teachings.
- SB1 does not address how same sex marriage will be taught in the public school curriculum and whether parents will be provided with notice and an opportunity to opt their children out of discussions on same sex relationships.

We come from different cultures, different beliefs, and we all live together on these islands. Although, everyone should have equal access and opportunity, at the same time individuals should also be entitled to respectfully express and hold their respective views. I believe the current version of SB1 does provide adequate protections for individuals.

Thank you!

GABRIEL DIAZ' TESTIMONY

Resident of the 42nd District

Submitted Thursday, October 31, 2013 @ 12:15 AM

To the Hawaii State House of Representatives

Aloha,

My name is Gabriel Diaz, I am a registered voter. When I vote, I take it seriously. I vote with the intention that my voice will be heard through my representative. But in matters that are important to me, I want to represent my own voice.

I came here with the hopes that I could speak my voice and it would be heard, listened to, and would matter. Yet on Monday as I watched for hours people giving their testimonies, I got the distinct impression that the Judiciary and Labor Committee did not vote according to the will of the majority of the people, but they voted according their own values.

What that told me was that when I would come here to testify, that my voice would not matter, that my voice would be unimportant, and that I would have an unequal representation in the laws that would govern my life. You are not that committee; you are a different body. Therefore, I ask that you allow my voice to count, to be equally represented amongst and against the many other voices of the people who are speaking for and against this bill.

Because I am younger than all of you, this bill, if passed, will affect my life much longer than it will affect any of yours. It will affect my place of employment, place of worship, the future morale values of my children, and my relationship with my friends and family members; how do I know?, because this bill is currently affecting all those things in my life.

I ask that you vote no to this bill, and motion that this bill be presented in the 2014 ballot so that when I vote, my voice will count.

Mahalo for your time.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Elevila Giles	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Maren	Individual	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: Aloha kakou, Mahalo for all of your hard work for the people of Hawai'i. We are grateful for your representation, hard work and sensitivity to our issues. It has become apparent through the past week that there has been quite a divergence from an accurate representation of the people of Hawai'i and democracy. As I understand, 70+% of the people would like to personally vote on this issue instead of leaving it in the hands of lawmakers. It is not clear why this request has been disregarded for the past week other than, as stated in the previous session, that this was our representatives' "career moment." We are sorry for any suffering that you have gone through during this process. Feel you may all be weary from these proceedings. Please honor the people of Hawai'i and accurately represent us by honoring our democratic request to vote on this issue. Ua mau ke ea o ka 'aina i ka pono. me ke aloha, Makamae Maren Illum



PFLAG-OAHU

(Parents, Families and Friends of

Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgendered, Intersex & Questioning)

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Celebrating 14 Years of Providing Support, Education and Advocacy for Hawaii's LGBT Community

Tuesday, April 2, 2013

RE: **SB1**

In Strong SUPPORT

TO: House Chair and members of the Judiciary Committee
House Chair and members of the Finance Committee

Re: Civil Rights

As a Master's Level Social Worker and Universal Life minister, I strongly support SB1 for Civil Rights relating to our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender couples and their families.

1) Hawaii has a history of studies, such as the **1995 Report of the Commission on Sexual Orientation and the Law** commissioned by former Governor Ben Cayetano on Same Gender Marriage that found no inherent harm would be done to Hawaii when social justice would be reality for our GLBT community. I have a gay son who deserves the same marriage rights that my husband, Mike and I have enjoyed for the past 48 years.

<http://www.lbrhawaii.info/lrbrpts/95/sexor.pdf>

2) There is the **1996 study by the Hawaii Council of Churches** that states

a) The Jewish tradition (1996, the Annual Convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis resolved to the support the right of gay and lesbian couples to share fully and equally in the rights of civil marriage, "oppose governmental efforts to ban gay and lesbian marriage," and further that "this is a matter of civil law, and is separate from the question of rabbinic officiation at such marriages.");

b) The Buddhist (Buddhist principles which would serve to show that same gender relationships and the rights that follow from them, such as marriage, can be positive in assisting a person to discover their own true nature and to realize the depth of their spiritual potentiality.);

c) The United Church of Christ General Synod (declares its support for the enactment of legislation at the federal, state, and local levels of government that would guarantee the liberties of all persons without discrimination related to affectional or sexual preferences.");

d) The Episcopal Church (1976 affirmed that "homosexual persons are entitled to equal protection under the law.; in 1991 reaffirm w/further resolution 'upon municipal councils, state legislatures and the United States Congress to approve measures giving gay and lesbian couples protection such as: bereavement and family leave policies, health benefits, pension benefits, real estate transfer tax benefits, and commitments to mutual support enjoyed by non-gay married couples.");

e) The United Methodist Church (Book of Discipline 1992: "Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to support those rights and liberties for homosexual

"If more people believed in justice, equality would be reality." CMG

persons.');

f) The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (urge(s) the passage of legislation on local, state and national levels which will end denial of civil rights and the violation of civil liberties for reasons of sexual preference, and calls upon ");

g) The Unitarian Universalist Association ('1996 General Assembly "in support of the legal recognition for marriage between members of the same sex;" and urging its "member congregations to proclaim the worth of marriage between any two committed persons and to make this position known in their home communities."');

h) The Presbyterian Church ("recognized that committed same-sex partners seek equal civil liberties in a contractual relationship with all the civil rights and privileges and status of married couples." The General Assembly further urged the office of the Stated Clerk to explore the feasibility of entering friend-of-the-court briefs and support legislation in favor of giving civil rights to same-sex partners."');

3) There is the **2010 UCLA “Economic impact of allowing same-sex marriage in Hawaii”** that addresses the economic impacts of same gender marriage.

4) There is the **2013 American Academy of Pediatrics study** (AAP) The AAP policy statement, “Promoting the Well-Being of Children Whose Parents Are Gay or Lesbian,” which supports civil marriage for same-gender couples – as well as full adoption and foster care rights for all parents, regardless of sexual orientation – as the best way to guarantee benefits and security for their children. This is a professional study with empirical data that address the social issues of adoption and foster care for the best interest of ALL our keiki and their families.

In the beginning of the 1990’s Hawaii started a journey for Civil Rights, Social Justice started in Hawaii. Other states dreamt about it but Hawaii did something about it.

It is said in **“Same-Gender Marriage and Religious Freedom”** by the Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy President, Interfaith Alliance:

“In our nation, however, issues of social acceptability and civic equality have a secure foundation independent of religion. That foundation is called the United States Constitution. Informing that document and standing alongside it is the force of the Declaration of Independence that, as far back as 1776, trumpeted to the world that “all men are created equal . . . endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.” The founders of this nation did not encumber basic rights and liberties with a requirement of affirmation from any religion. Their resolute compliance with core democratic values prevailed despite differences in opinions about religion and beliefs shaped by religion. The founders launched this grand experiment in democracy in order to find ways to work together for the betterment of this government and for assurances of liberty and justice for all of their present and future fellow patriots.”

Please save Hawaii and our LGBT community any more time and money by refusing to pass this resolution that is unnecessary due to the variety of studies

already complete. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. is quoted as saying: "Justice delayed is justice denied."

The Social Justice History of Hawaii is in your hands.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Sylvia Crowell	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Sylvia Crowell Hauula Hawaii

Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joshua Ko and I am the Youth Pastor of First Assembly of God, a multi-site youth ministry meeting in four different locations across Oahu. I am speak in opposition to SB1, relating to same-sex marriage.

A certain representative stated that, "majority of people under 30 years old, are indifferent to the issue of same-sex marriage and do not care about what happens." Essentially that this generation does not really care about the matter at hand. **I would like to challenge that.** I believe that this generation lives by conviction and knows right from wrong when they are faced with such an issue. That if given a chance to be heard, they would be able to make the right decision. This past week, I have seen youth within different High schools and churches take a stand for marriage by writing letters, calling and meeting with their representatives, signing petitions, praying, fasting, and taking a stand; practicing there 1st amendment rights. Are these student naive? No...I believe they live by conviction understanding that they cannot live their lives in violation to their God given conscience to do nothing on such an important issue as marriage. They live by conviction and do not falter on political jargon. This issue is important to them because they will be living under this law.

Why would the governor try to ram such an important issue such as marriage within a "Special Session", a 5-day congressional legislator? Why the rush? He knows that if he gave the public a chance to speak up, to decide on the issue, that this bill would not go through.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided virtually in one week and ask that you please uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session.

This bill should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever obliterate thousand of years of indigenous and non-native culture, customs and traditions. Your "yes" vote in special session is clearly a NO vote to democracy!

Yes, these MS/HS students may not own a car, don't pay bills, don't have a life long career. Some cannot vote right now, but in a couple of years they will be able to vote. Students do care about the issue and will not remain silent!

Thank you for allowing me to testify!

Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

I am opposed to SB1 because this issue is not about rights or equality. The issue behind SB1 is about redefining the institution of marriage between a man and a woman.

This challenge is in direct opposition to what the bible says. We will be guilty of replacing what God has established here on earth with something that man is seeking to undermine. I realize that these words may hold little consideration before a legislative body due to the 1st Amendment and as a result, even of lesser value in the political process today. Yet, I believe in a higher authority, a Supreme God, who speaks to the hearts of men and women like you who were given authority by God to make wise decisions for the good of the people of this state. This is not a road that we will want to venture into for it will lead to unwanted and undesirable ends. It will be a road with no U-turns allowed. It will set the course of our future down a path that we will regret.

I am asking you today to listen not merely with your mind but with your heart as well. I know that you were elected to represent your constituents. I ask that you listen carefully to what they are saying. The future of this state lies in your hands. You have an incredible responsibility, but one that does not have to remain in your hands alone. I am asking you to vote NO on this SB1 and to release your authority to the people to make the choice on this issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Spike Tanaka

95-380 Hokukea Ct. #236, Mililani, HI 96789

Ph. 627-0381

SB1

Submitted on: 10/31/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Abel Malczon	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Judah Davis	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Oct 31, 2013 To: Honorable Chair and Members of the committee I strongly stand against Senate Bill 1 - for the following reasons...(verbal testimony). Thank you - Judah Davis, Middle School Student

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

If this were simply a matter of allowing those two nice men down the street to show their commitment in a ceremony, that would be another matter altogether. But what is being sought here is the re-definition---or rather, deconstruction---of marriage as we have understood it for thousands of years. Gov. Abercrombie is ignoring the prerogatives of the Legislature to ram this measure through---whether from his own Progressive desires to perfect a statist utopia, or in response to his obligations to the gay activists who have purchased his loyalty, I cannot say. But this reveals his clear contempt for the legislative process and for the will of the people.

This Legislature, in fact, has shown contempt for the desires of their constituents by refusing to define marriage in the late 1990s, and then by sneaking through a hurried vote on Civil Unions, even breaking their own procedural rules to do so, in the closing days of the Lingle administration. Now, in defiance of a clear majority of voters who oppose this measure, this body of cultural elites feel that they know best, and are voting on a bill that may not be debated or changed. To quote Pres. Obama, that is not what America is all about.

Marriage is not a right; marriage is a privilege, and one that the State has a direct interest in protecting, in recognition that the family is the basic building block of society, that solid families make a strong state, and that the biological family is the best and surest way to provide for the general welfare, and to protect children. In fact, they know that it will undefine marriage and the family to the point that the family will lose its legal definition.

About 8 years ago, the Becket Fund for religious liberty, sponsored a symposium of legal scholars from all over the country, from the faculty of the top law schools. Many were in support of same-sex marriage---fewer were not. But the conclusions they came up with were startling: they all agreed that Same-Sex marriage would mean a huge, fundamental change in American law---a “dangerous train wreck”, as one man put it---and that it was nearly impossible to even predict its far-reaching effects, except that churches were likely to lose their tax-exempt status, ministers would be required to perform gay marriages, and that religious institutions would be continually under pressure to provide services and facilities contrary to their beliefs. Chai Feldblum of Georgetown Law School said, “Sexual liberty should win in most cases. There can be a conflict between religious liberty and sexual liberty, but in almost all cases the sexual liberty should win because that’s the only way that the dignity of gay people can be affirmed in any realistic manner.”

I defy anyone in the House of this state to express any sincere confidence in this bill’s ability to prevent such discrimination. Abercrombie and others in the State House have expressed enough contempt for religious values as to destroy any confidence in their good will or the bill’s resilience in resisting subsequent laws that will demand a homosexual curriculum in the schools, financial threats for churches that do not change their doctrines and practices, and threats to private colleges for not conforming to the new standard. These issues are too fundamental to be decided on a bill that the Governor clearly does not want to be examined very deeply. This alone should cause this body to rise up in rejection of this strong-armed attempt to intimidate the representatives and to game the system.

The fate of Hawaii and of human liberty and individual conscience is at stake here. Cripple religious liberty here, and no other rights are safe.

Mahalo a nui loa,

Randal Allred, Ph.D.

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Aaron Curtis	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I previously registered my opposing testimony. I would like the chance to testify in person at the hearing.

House Judiciary and Finance Committee
October 31, 2013
10:00 a.m.
Re: Bill #SB1
Testifying in person: Michelle Tancayo

Subject: Testimony in Opposition of Proposed Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013

About 20 years ago my husband and I along with our two young sons traveled to Oahu from Molokai at our own expense to protest same sex marriage then. Here I am today asking that it not be passed.

I firmly believe that the legislature should not be willing to make such a crucial decision on this divisive matter without letting the people decide again. Our state motto is: "Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Aina i ka Pono" The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness". Please remember that and take responsibility to ensure a stable society for our Keiki.

I also believe that we need not rush into passing such a bill. I believe if you are a true representative of the people, you will listen to the majority of the people who made a decision on this many years ago. Please don't side with the vocal minority who moves this to the forefront today. This is an issue that can have lasting even damaging affects on our society. What about our children? Will we be compelled to teach about such immoral practices of homosexuality and same gender marriage?

Can you guarantee that my religious freedom will not be infringed upon? For example, part of the language itself in House Bill 6 alarms me it says, "the legislature also recognizes that the broad application of this authority may impair the exercise of religious freedom."

I support House Bill #8 where it states the institution of marriage between one man and one woman is a protected relationship of fundamental unequaled importance to the state, the nation, and society. Hawaii's marriage laws were intended to perpetuate a traditional family.

Society may be changing in ways that are not best, we need not follow and be the fifteenth state to support same sex marriage. If "In God we Trust" then we should not change his laws to suit our will. Ponder on our state motto and please Vote NO to the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
Michelle Tancayo
Citizen & Registered Voter

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Tiffany Toelupe	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Tiffany Toelupe Laie,Hawaii

Christopher D. Yanuaria
Honolulu, HI 96822

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Tuesday, October 31, 2013 10:00 a.m.

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street, Auditorium

RE: SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS.

Recognizes marriages between individuals of the same sex. Extends to same-sex couples the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of marriage that opposite-sex couples receive. Effective 11/18/13

Aloha Chair Rep. Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Rep. Sharon E. Har, Committee on Judiciary, Chair Rep. Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, and Committee on Finance:

My name is Christopher Yanuaria, a young adult born and raised on Maui, now currently living on Oahu. I am testifying in **STRONG OPPOSITION OF SB1.**

My argument is not in the end about homosexuality. I do not have a religious or theological argument against homosexuality. I do not think ill of same-sex-attracted people. For anyone who knows me they would say I am a thoughtful and caring person no matter age, race, creed, color, sex, religion, and sexual orientation of a person. I have deep compassion for my homosexual friends and understand their reasons why they want to get married. But the central debate is to understand what marriage is, and is not; and highlighting the goodness of what traditional marriage brings to society.

Marriage has traditionally been defined as a union between one man and one woman fundamentally ordered to procreate and thus share in family life in a committed and exclusive relationship. Marriage has always been the best means of raising and caring for healthy and happy children. Having a biological mother and father, because of their complementary way of parenting, is the ideal situation for a child growing up to become productive adult citizens, which allows our society to flourish. The reality is that children need a mother and father. In a brief submitted to the Supreme Court by social science professors including Dr. Mark D. Regnerus states:

“It is not simply the presence of two parents...but the presence of two biological parents that seems to support children’s development... Experts have long contended that both mothers and fathers make unique contributions to parenting.”¹

If the State of Hawaii redefines marriage to include same-sex partners it would deny the importance of a mother and father. I am not saying that same-sex couples cannot make valiant efforts to raise healthy children; I am saying that there are distinct advantages when both a mother and a father raise children.

I have interacted with a number of families here in Hawaii and I have noticed that there are a number of families with absent fathers. This is very concerning. Redefining marriage would further weaken the social pressure and lower the motivation for husbands to stay with their wives and children, or for men and women to marry before having children.² Redefining marriage would undermine the good that traditional marriage brings to our communities, and it is going to be Hawaii’s families that will suffer.

I URGE YOU TO PLEASE OPPOSE SB1.

Mahalo,

Christopher D. Yanuaria

¹ <http://www.adfmedia.org/files/HollingsworthAmicusSocialScienceProfessors.pdf>

² Girgis, S., Anderson, R. T., George R. P., (2012). *What is marriage? Man and women: a defense*. New York, NY: Wilsted & Taylor Publishing. 8.

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Valerie Russell

HI 96782

To: House Judiciary Committee
House Finance Committee

Hearing: 10/31/13, 10:00 A.M.

Subject: Opposition to SB1

I may be present at hearing.

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

What's the Rush???

The latest version of SB1 was dated 10/28/13, which is on the first day that this very short special session started. Many people were not even aware that there was a last minute revision to the bill. Clearly, this does not give enough time for the public or even lawmakers to give their full input and be heard fairly.

If the Legislature thinks that times are changing and this is inevitable, then let due process take it's course. No forced special session is necessary.

As elected representatives, please represent the people of Hawaii and not the people in other states that have passed a same-sex marriage bill. If you would rather represent their views, then you are free to move there.

Not enough time has been spent on addressing the far-reaching consequences of this bill. Parents have a hard enough time trying to keep their kids from being force-fed in the school system that same-sex partners are normal and accepted, and that's only if they find out about their curriculum. If this bill passes, the courts will take that protective right away from the parents.

I feel again that something, that the majority of the public is not in favor of, is being railroaded just like the rail project.

The intent of this bill is being revealed little by little. This isn't just about marriage equality. It is about the will of a few to be forced on the majority, and then some. In fact, the majority (churches with traditional marriage beliefs) will be punished (taxed) with a change to a "for profit" organization if they continue operating the same way they have always operated in the past.

Contrary to what Sen. Clayton Hee has tried to brand this, this bill does not compare with interracial marriage because same-sex marriage is and will always be a moral issue, while interracial marriage is a social issue. The legalization of abortion is more similar to same-sex marriage in that the supposed right of a woman to abort will trample upon the right of a fetus to live. In a similar way, the values and results associated with same-sex marriage will interfere with and suppress the right of Bible-believing Christians to freely live by and be taught "traditional" family values.

The chaos resulting from what happened in the House recently is a reflection of the under-handed, smoke & mirrors, through-the-backdoor, and bullying politics that lawmakers would stoop to in order to ram SB1 through. We are seeing the true intent of the politics in this state and country. We, the people, are fed up with politicians and how arrogant they are acting towards their constituents by following a different agenda.

There's always a hidden agenda. You may be able to hide things from people, but nothing can be hidden from God. God is just and he will not let evil go unpunished.

Do the right thing. Do your job. Do it honestly.

Vote against SB1. Polls are inaccurate. The most accurate poll is to "Let the People Vote."

Thank you,
Henry Guerrero

10/31/13

To: 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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

This bill is being debated for equality, but equality is not accomplished if the rights of one community are forfeited for the rights of another. This bill should give the rights the LGBT community wants, but not at the expense of other citizens of Hawaii and the US. If you're trying to take away the rights of the religious because they can't, by their services, condone a cause against their beliefs, you're simply taking on the exact kind of discrimination you are accusing them of. If the LGBT community has the right to live by the lifestyle they subscribe to, why can't the religious retain the same right? Or do you not believe in true equality? We don't want a right to hate, but to keep our right to maintain our religious integrity legally.

I oppose this bill because of the negative effects it would have on our culture and community, but if it passes, I'd like to have assured to me my religious freedom, as well as the right to raise children in our own faith without the government trying to impose their own beliefs on them through the school system in violation of our religious freedom.

Also, there are thousands of people—who YOU represent—asking for one thing: Let the people vote.

Holly Tanaka
Mililani, HI 96789

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Charis Logan	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I would like to respectfully oppose this bill. As I have read over SB1, I have found a few areas that concern me and my family. Under section 572-B, it says that all gender specific terminology shall be construed in a gender-neutral manner and shall apply to all sources of law. This alarms me because it is here that I see that this bill will now affect our education system. Not only will it change all language to be gender-neutral, I believe that it will have to completely change all educational curriculum. I also believe that it won't just stop with the language being changed but will evolve to mean that gender is not defined by genitalia but by preferences. I have worked with preschool and early elementary age students and know how impressionable children are at that age. I believe that all the ambiguity will only cause more confusion and may even cause unnecessary confusion. There are things as a parent that I would like to reserve the right to not have my child learn certain things in school, and would rather discuss with my child at home. The other issue in the bill that alarmed me was in section 572C-2. I firmly believe that marriage is a sacrament of the church and is between one man and one woman. I was appalled to read that the "Legislature acknowledges that there are many individuals who have significant personal, emotional, and economic relationships with another individual yet are prohibited by legal restrictions from marrying." The example given was a widowed (which earlier was deemed as a gender specific word) mother and her unmarried son. I do believe that opening this up is detrimental to the good of our society. I do not believe that this is the best solution to areas of concern, whether economic or personal. I respectfully ask you to consider these concerns as you make your decision. I am not against giving rights to same sex couples, but would ask that we instead amend civil unions to include federal rights. Thank you very much

Aloha, my name is Valerie Okimoto. I am a true blue local girl, born and raised on the island of Kauai, and now reside in Mililani Mauka with my husband and two daughters (ages 5 and 10 months). Being from the islands, the Aloha Spirit is a part of my DNA, not something that I do, but a part of who I am. There is no other place that I would call home other than here, in our beautiful island state. It is because of this that I am compelled to submit this testimony AGAINST THE PASSING OF THE SAME SEX MARRIAGE LAW. My parents raised me to be respectful to all, regardless of race, gender, religion, economic background. More importantly, however, they taught me to always STAND UP FOR WHAT I KNOW TO BE TRUE AND RIGHT. I testify to you that the passing of this Same Sex Marriage law is NOT THE RIGHT THING to do. In no way I am a "homophobe" (as many call those who are against SSM), in fact I myself have gay and lesbian friends. But, while I do love and respect them, I do not condone nor agree with the life they have chosen to live. I understand that there is controversy even with the word "chosen", for many feel it wasn't a decision. I empathize with their situations, however, my conscience, my mind, my heart, and my morals & values testify to me that this is not in any way the natural course that man and woman were created to take. Many are tearing down those who are faithful in our religions. It is saddening to me to see that the basis that our country was founded upon is being gravely jeopardized, that we who are God fearing are frowned upon. That the Creator who gave us life is shunned and mocked in so many ways.

I implore you to please stop this process, which is in so many levels unethical, unconstitutional, and just morally wrong! We the people have spoken, and the MAJORITY of the people here continue to hold fast to what we know to be righteous, and that is to NOT PASS SAME SEX MARRIAGE. How the minority of the people here are having their voices heard above the SHOUTS from the majority is simply insane to me. On Monday, I along with bus loads of family and friends went to the Capital. With my daughters in hand, we witnessed the enormity of the support of TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE and RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS. I thought that surely the leaders of our state, who were chosen by the people, would listen to the people and if not stop the process, slow it down. I was saddened to see that our cries were not heard. While some cry "equality", I can't help but think this cannot, and will not, ever be a matter of equality. Marriage between a man and a woman is something that was created from the beginning. Only between a man and a woman can this solemn covenant be made, and only between man and wife can children be created, nothing is its equivalent. The negative effects of this bill going through are vast. What kind of world are we leaving for our children to live in? Is it one where democracy is mocked for the benefit of personal agendas? Or, where parents no longer can decide what is morally right for their children? Where teachers are FORCED to teach things that go against their morals? Can you, with a clear conscience, pass this bill knowing that we will all suffer? That the world we are leaving for our children will be full of people who feel entitled, who will disregard others' morals and values, and demand their wants regardless of how it will affect others? This is not any part of the Hawaii that I know and love.

Allow us, the people, to DECIDE! Do not force your agendas on the people of this beautiful State. Please hear and recognize our cries. VOTE "NO"!

Sincerely,

Valerie Okimoto

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jovelana Muti	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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.

Aloha House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express **STRONG SUPPORT FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY FOR HAWAII**.
This is one of the most important issues that we need to pass.

I am very proud to be a resident of Hawaii, and I do many things to serve this beautiful state.

Marriage Equality will help increase social freedom for residents of our state. I am an ordained minister & chaplain, & as a person of faith I live by a philosophy of lovingkindness & charity. I believe in Marriage Equality because it will allow people to love & marry each other regardless of gender. All committed couples deserve the same basic rights & responsibilities. It will also allow individuals who are committed to each other to visit each other in the hospital when sick without restriction & give them other rights related to ownership, inheritance, & so on.

Marriage Equality will help gay/lesbian people to have improved mental health. I know so many gay/lesbian people here, & I have seen them suffer unnecessarily as a result of the current state of inequality. As a mental health professional, every day I witness the psychological harm that is done via reduced human rights as well as from bullying and harassment that results from a community that does not view gay/lesbian people as equal. As a result of being discriminated against, many gay/lesbian people suffer from more depression, suicidal thoughts, and anxiety than the average population. I have witness teenagers and adults commit suicide due to being discriminated against for being gay or lesbian. It is a tragedy that is totally unnecessary and preventable. **Marriage equality would help reduce bullying against glbt people over time.**

Marriage Equality will bring economic benefits and increased revenue to our state.

Other states who have passed marriage equality have seen increased spending by gay/lesbian families & friends on wedding parties, events & services. People love to get married in Hawaii, & this will allow couples from all over the world to come here & get married.

Marriage Equality will teach our keiki about equality and to treat others with respect and not based on discrimination.

Marriage Equality will prove another landmark in civil rights and equality for our state and it will place us nationwide among the states who are now choosing equal rights for committed couples. We would be VERY PROUD of this.

Marriage Equality in Hawaii would not reduce or negatively affect religious communities' right to deny couples access to weddings or other events in their facilities, if they do not support this. Churches practices would not be negatively affected in any way.

Mahalo nui loa for considering passing marriage equality for all couples of our beautiful land,
Rev. Heather Havey
Honolulu, HI

Name: Reid M., Self

Committees(s): Committee On Judiciary and Finance

Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013

Measure Number: SB1

Testify: Will testify in person

My name is Reid M. and I strongly oppose SB1.

I have a Certification of Live Birth from the State of Hawaii and on this birth certificate it identifies the person born, the birth date and time, location, and the following two important things, (1) the sex of the child and (2) the mother and father and their races.

For me my mother was Okinawan and my father was Okinawan so whether I liked it or not I am Okinawan. Similarly, for my gay brothers and sisters whether you liked it or not when you were born you were declared either male or female.

So then it is a choice that you made personally and NOT by birth that you choose to be gay or because of your sexual orientation or sexual preference that you prefer those of the same sex as you. So just because you choose to be gay does not automatically give you the right to demand from your lawmakers your own rights and it should not automatically give lawmakers the right to change laws to accommodate you because you choose to be gay. Let me make it clear to my gay brothers and sisters that your rights to marry as a man or as a woman and as a citizen of this State has NOT been taken away. Because you can go right now with someone from the opposite sex and file a marriage license and get married today. But you cannot or should not be able to marry someone of the same sex simply because of your sexual orientation or sexual preference. And that is why civil union and/or domestic partnerships were created just for you.

If you're saying that being gay is all about Civil Rights, then I should be afforded/given the same rights also. In other words, I was born Okinawan but now I choose to be Hawaiian because of my Race Orientation or Race Preference and Because of my Race Orientation and Race Preference I am now Hawaiian so now I can demand from you lawmakers that I receive all rights that a Hawaiian person receive. I can also demand from you lawmakers that you re-define what a "Hawaiian" is so that it includes me. Can I do that, absolutely not because it is not my right. Voting "yes" will be precedence setting because you will now have to accommodate any groups of people (polygamist, incest marriage, group marriages, human to animal marriage, etc...) and provide them the same rights/consideration as you do with gays. That is why it is so important to Define Marriage as ONE MAN and ONE WOMEN.

I would like to say that "if" you vote NO all you're saying is that we need more time and that you are willing to go back to your District where you represent and do town halls in the community and address the concerns and questions on both sides. Don't be like the cowards in the Senate and run away from the people or follow their "all for one and one for all" mentality (which is poor and immature politics). I challenge each of you in the House of Representative (and the Senate too) to come to us and meet us head to head and heart to heart and let's open up the discussions open up the dialog on this very delicate and sensitive issue...Please I beg you...There is nothing to be afraid of???

However if you vote yes what you are saying is that forget about the people I represent because they have no say as far as how I'm voting. But it becomes more than just that and more than a religious or civil rights issues, when you vote yes, what you are essentially saying is that it is okay for our Keiki our children our future to grow up and be taught that homosexuality is okay and that having anal sex with a person of the same sex is okay or having oral sex with a person of the same sex is okay. What that invites is perversion (a free for all) and perversion degrades society as a whole. We have already seen the impacts in history, in the 1960's the so call "hippie" movement where there was a free for all with sex and drugs and it has compounded over the years where now millions upon millions of American people have been affected by this type of per-ver-sive acts in the past and are now face with a variety of addictions and associated problems (pornography addiction, drug addiction, violence, etc.). Perversion degrades society, why because you diminish the Sacredness of the Gift and Power of Procreation and the Sacredness of Marriage between ONE MAN and ONE WOMEN which for the sake of mankind and the human race should be kept sacred and kept to the utmost highest standard of living as human beings.

Additionally, I have heard testimonies that gays are treated like second class citizen. I ask where is this happening in the State of Hawaii??? Speaking for Hawaii only, I have not seen a water fountain that says heterosexuals only; I have not seen on a public bus, no gays allowed or heterosexual seats only; I have not heard of any "hate" crimes against gays; I have not heard of gays complaining that they are not allowed in any business establishments; or gays not being able to find work; or gays not being able to vote; etc. So to say that you are being persecuted and discriminated against, similar to what the blacks and women felt back in history is an exaggeration and NOT a true, fair or honest comparison. In fact, we the people of Hawaii and the Hawaii State Government have been very accommodating to the gay community in the creation of Civil Unions and Domestic Partnership laws. If I'm not mistaken the majority of the people was for it and hardly put up any resistance to the passing of these bills. Now if the complaint is that under these State laws, gays are not able to receive Federal Benefits, if so then take it up with the United States Congress. We have Congresswomen Hanabusa and Gabbard and Senators Hirono and Shatz, have them draft legislation to revise the Federal Laws to include Federal Benefits for Civil Unions and Domestic Parthnership laws at the State level. We should NOT be trying to fix a Federal problem/issue at the State level and make that the reason/justification for same sex marriage (that's ridicules).

So basically the bottom line is what the gay community is saying that no matter if they receive every single benefit that a married heterosexual couple receives it's still not the same as being married and that's where we agree because it is NOT the same because marriage under State law should only be reserved for ONE MAN and ONE WOMEN. Your intentions might be good and I respect that, but we cannot risk the ramifications that will occur as a result of same sex marriage. The detriment that it will have on our society and the biggest issue is the detriment, the fall out, it will have on our children and future generation and that is what we should be most concerned with. No one can deny that Marriage between ONE MAN and ONE WOMEM and the Gift and Power of Procreation for the creation of children and generations has ALWAYS been connected and has ALWAYS been the strength and foundation of Society, Civilization and the existence of mankind.

To: House Judiciary Committee and House Finance Committee
The Honorable Chairs Karl Rhoads and Sylvia Luke
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
Re: Strong Opposition of SB1
From: Ron Shiira
In Person and Written

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

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

As a husband of 32 years to my wife, father of two children, a grandfather of a handsome seven year old grandson and a school administrator of over a thousand children and youth, I am asking you to allow the people to decide on the issue of marriage as I believe the legislature is going against the will of the people of Hawaii, as they have already voted on this issue in 1998. I support traditional marriage between a man and a woman. I also support equality for all, including the rights of conscience and religious freedom, which I ask you to respect as our elected leaders.

I am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our state's history being decided virtually in one week. Why rush to decide on an issue that has obviously more questions than definite answers? Like many of you, I was raised to take my time and not to rush on important and critical life decisions. As a responsible adult, this is something that I also pass on to my children and people that I'm responsible and care for. This decision will affect our states destiny, it will affect our future, and it will affect your children, your children's children and mine. Why rush to decide? Let's let the people decide.

As an active voting member of our state's election process for over 38 years, starting at the age of eighteen, I truly believe that this bill, at a minimum, should be given due process during the regular session where it can properly be vetted and examined as all other bills. The people who elected you to serve as their voices should have a say in public policy that will forever change our tremendous state. I ask you to uphold the principles of democracy and the democratic process which are being disregarded in this special session and let the people decide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

Ron Shiira
Honolulu, HI 96817

From: Jade Raneses [<mailto:jadesolomon619@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 11:32 PM
Subject: LET THE PEOPLE VOTE & SHOW YOU WHAT WE VALUE

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

Dear House Judiciary Committee & House Finance Committee,

My name is Jade Solomon and I am 28 years old. I'm not a political activist, nor am I a hateful person. On the contrary, I'm a loving wife and a God-fearing woman, who believes that our Creator loves everyone. I have several family members and friends who choose a homosexual lifestyle. While I don't agree with same-sex relationships, which is a belief similar to not agreeing with them robbing a bank, I do love them. Please believe that not all people who believe in God are hateful and judgmental.

See, homosexuality is a *lifestyle*.

Examples of lifestyles are polygamy, alcoholism, pornography, promiscuity, addictions, violence, etc.

The argument I've heard many times in the media is, "People should be free to love whomever they love and should be free to marry them."

Well, then what about the lifestyle of polygamy? What if I love *many* people?

What would happen if polygamists became the loud majority and wanted to pass a bill legalizing it? What would we say then? Would the government seriously consider allowing the people having multiple spouses? The decision has nothing to do with tax benefits or even equality.

For hundreds of years, marriage has been defined between a man and woman. Why? Because those who founded this country and the many legislatures thereafter, believed that this was a moral principle that should be upheld.

What confuses me is that now that the gay community is speaking up, *now* it even becomes an issue? An issue that the people might not even get a chance to vote on.

A lot of people in Hawaii smoke marijuana, but you don't see Hawaii passing that bill! Why do you think? No other reason than the fact that it's not safe and it has been proven to lead to other more harmful drugs. Simply, it is immoral.

Since the foundation of the laws is to protect and uphold the morals and values of this country, why does it feel like we are veering so far away from them? What I fear most are not the affects that it will have on this generation, but the generations after us- our children and our children's children.

Yes, everyone is about "rights for all" now, but what happens when it reaches your doorstep? Now, it becomes personal.

Are you ready to give an answer to your son or daughter if they come home with a person of the same sex? Will you be ready to fight for "equality" then? How will you feel once same-sex relationships have been so normalized in the schools, in the media, and in music, that your children and your children's' children will be subject to a *lifestyle* opposite of *your* family values.

After the passing of the bill in Massachusetts, children in schools received pamphlets on how same-sex marriages are accepted in society now. What makes you think that that wouldn't happen in Hawaii? What makes you think pamphlets won't circulate in the intermediate and high schools? What makes you think gay rights activists won't go through great lengths to impose their beliefs on our children?

The implications of this bill being passed are wide, unknown, and completely unsafe for our children!

You see, this is NOT about tax right benefits or healthcare insurance...it's about upholding our family values as a country.

Lastly, if you say, "I represent the people," then let the people vote and let's see where the values lay. Let the people show you what they value. Please represent us properly by letting the people vote on what's moral.

Thank you for listening and I pray that you would strongly consider allowing the people to decide.

Sincerely,

Fellow Hawaii Resident,

Jade Solomon

Jadesolomon619@gmail.com

Ala Moana District

From: JANET Lee MARLETTE [<mailto:sjmarlette@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 12:05 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Opposed to SB1

Thank you for allowing my testimony. Forgive me for the informal nature of this letter as I am not familiar with protocol of how to submit testimony.

I am strongly opposed to SB1 Relating to Equal Rights. I do not feel that this bill adequately protects MY FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS as a Christian who believes that marriage is reserved for one man and one woman, as a mother who teaches biblical values to her children and as a small business woman.

This bill is not about equal rights. Essentially, you are telling me that I can no longer practice my faith and teach my children valuable, moral lessons from God. You are telling me that, as a business woman, I can't refuse my rentals to a gay couple if I do not want exposure to that lifestyle. You are telling me that 5% percent of the population, who makes quite a lot of noise, is more important that the other 95% of your constituents whose rights will be compromised. How can this be about equal rights??

Please do not cave to the inside political pressure of a governor who is a bully and seriously misguided in his motives regarding this issue. I pray that your eyes be opened and you see that this is a seriously flawed bill.

Mahalo Nui.

Janet Lee Marlette

2080 Mauna Place

Honolulu, Hi. 96822

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

From: Casey Isabelo [<mailto:Casey.isabelo@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 11:11 PM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Casey Isabelo
95-261 Ahiku St #82
Mililani, HI 96820

Joanne Ebesu
94-1120 Nawele St.
Waipahu, HI 96797

October 30, 2013

Dear Hawaii State Senators:

As a voting Hawaii resident, I would like to respectfully request that you vote "NO" on SB1, which would legalize same-sex marriage in Hawaii. This is such an important social issue that it should be presented to the voters of Hawaii to decide on, and not voted on during a special session that limits the opportunity of citizens to provide input into the legislative process. If the majority of Hawaii's population truly wants to legalize same-sex marriage as pollers and supporters of this bill claim, then they should not be afraid to let the people vote on this issue which will change Hawaii's society forever. If SB1 passes, it will be an important step in allowing the radical policy agenda of the LGBT movement to strengthen in Hawaii, and the will of the few will be imposed on that of the many, ignoring the rights of the majority to defend their beliefs and privacy.

Although the draft bill contains provisions to protect the rights of churches and leaders who perform marriage ceremonies, if passed, this law will still infringe on the rights and religious beliefs of private citizens and private businesses, and more importantly, upon the rights of parents to choose to educate their children as they see fit. In many states that have passed similar laws legalizing same-sex, business people such as photographers who choose not to photograph same-sex weddings have been prosecuted for discrimination. Also in these states, public schools have begun teaching even elementary school children about same-sex marriage, and also same-sex education. A parent in MA who objected to homosexuality being taught to his kindergartner in school, was even arrested and told that he had no basis for his complaint since same sex marriage is now legal. Starting in Jan. 2014, parents and children in CA cannot even object to children/teenagers of the opposite sex using the same bathrooms and showers if they claim they are "transgender." What about the right to privacy for the non-LGBT citizens and children, who are the majority of the population? The passage of HB1109 in Hawaii will only lead to discrimination of people who do not believe in same-sex marriage and sexual issues.

The 1998 amendment that voters passed reads, "The legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples." This granted the legislature the power to ban same-sex marriage, which it subsequently did. The voters did NOT grant the legislature the power to DESTROY traditional marriage. By voting for SB1, you will willfully ignore the law and the voice of the majority of the people you have been elected to represent. We voters should have the right to vote on this critically important issue; the reason we did and could not in 1998 was because of the unfair wording of the amendment that was the only choice given to us.

Please consider the ramifications of the passage of HB1109 to our state and children. Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono.

Thank you for your attention and public service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joanne Ebesu".

Joanne Ebesu

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Shirley P. Ching	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I oppose Senate Bill 1 as it infringes on our rights as a citizen of Hawaii. I feel we have given alot of Aloha to the SSM group as it stands they already have Civil Union rights. I feel the people of Hawaii of should be given the opportunity to vote on this issue for it will dramatically change our beliefs on marriage, affect our children, churches and business and most certainly our State. I ask that you will please consider my request from someone whose family were one of those who came here in the 1920's to build this Hawaii.

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

From: RJ Fernandez [<mailto:roxfernandez@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 12:16 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Please Support Marriage Equality!

My name is RJ Fernandez and I am asking for your support for marriage equality. As you may already know SB1 has received overwhelming support by our state senate members, with votes counted 20-4. The vote placed by our senate members speaks loud and clear; marriage equality is essential in the state of Aloha. In 1998, the people of Hawai'i have voted for marriage to be between one man and one woman only. While that may have reflected the general consensus 15 years ago, it does not accurately represent today's society or effectively help people seeking the benefits and protections that come with marriage. On Monday's public hearing, many fallacious statements have been made about same-sex couples and SB1. Many parents have testified their opposition stating that by passing SB1, schools would force children to learn about homosexuality and gay rights. Another many believe that religious organizations will be penalized for refusing to solemnize marriage for same-sex couples. Finally, the fallacious statement that has been said many times is that same-sex marriage has already been legalized in Hawaii but has been coined the term "civil-union".

Many of those that have testified their opposition earlier this week were parents. Parents have the right to be concerned about their child(ren) and the information that is passed to them. However, there is nothing in SB1 that states that children will be forced to learn information about homosexuality in schools. SB1 is written for the same-sex couples that seek marriage equality in our state. SB1 is NOT constructed for the education system in Hawai'i.

Another fallacious statement said by people that oppose SB1 is that SB1 would ultimately force religious organizations to solemnize same-sex couples seeking marriage. The clauses in SB1 are constructed to protect religious groups and organization; yet people fail to realize this or even read the specific clauses regarding religion.

Civil Union is slightly similar to marriage, but unfortunately it lacks certain elements that do not protect same-sex couples in a civil union. Civil union grants protection on a state level, but omits recognition on a federal level. In a civil marriage, there are more than a thousand legal protections and responsibilities from the federal government; civil unions receive none of those benefits. While marriage is respected from state to state, it is uncertain how other states will handle civil unions that were granted in Hawai'i.

I'd like to conclude this personal email by stating that I am a part of a generation that seeks equality for same-sex couples. I am a part of the generation that was not able to voice my opinions 15 years ago; for which at 7 years old, I was told that all American citizens were born with the same rights, if not, then those rights are gained through naturalization. At 7 years old, I was also taught that our home consists of many people and that the diversity is what makes Hawai'i the most unique place on the planet. The person that we decide to love should not make us a second-class citizen. Please be on the right side of history and vote for marriage equality.

RJ Fernandez

RJ Fernandez
91-118 Nohoihoewa Way
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

House of Representatives

Second Special Session October 31, 2013 @ 10:00am

Committee on Judiciary & Committee on Finance

I humbly submit my testimony. My name is Tracy Ann Kapua Hao. I am a resident on the island of Molokai. I am a mother of 4. My son Alakai was the World 1999 Junior Golf Champion & presently serving in the US Air Force (13yrs) stationed in CA. My daughter Hiiaka was Miss Teen Molokai 2000. She is a business owner on Oahu. My daughter Kapua is a 2011 graduate of Kamehameha Schools. She introduced her Junior class in the KS Song Contest. She also represented her Senior Class with the opening "Oli" of the KS Song Contest. She speaks fluent Hawaiian and she is presently a student at CFNI-Christ for the Nations Bible Institute in Dallas. My baby Kuupilioha is 15 yrs old. She is a student at Seabury Hall on Maui and the most sought after softball pitcher. I am also a grandma of 5. My children and grandchildren are the most important priority in my life.

I flew here last Sunday to testify on October 28 and I will return again to testify on October 31, 2013. I am honored to be able to share my mana'o, my heart felt thoughts with you.

I work for a private nursing company which places me in the school on Molokai, specifically Kaunakakai, Kualapuu and Maunaloa Elementary Schools. I am assigned to 3 SPED (Special Education) students. One student is a diabetic who needs a blood glucose check and insulin. My other two students need GT tube feedings. The student on continuous feeding also needs periodic trach suctioning and the other student needs to be fed every 2 hours.

I've been a Licensed Practical Nurse for over 20 years. I've worked @ Molokai General Hospital. I've worked with the Dept of Health & the Public Health Nurses and I've worked with the Molokai Community Health Center. I have been blessed with the opportunity of working with our keiki and their family for almost 25 years.

My children, your children, their children, our children, they are the most important issue here. The decision, you, our Representatives make will determine the quality of life for our future generations. You are literally holding their future in your hands. They are helpless. They are innocent and they are not being given the right to say yes or no. During the many testimonies I heard on Monday, maybe only 20% if even that much of the testimonies mentioned our keiki and what they will have to endure in their life time. I weep for my moopuna (grandchildren) and our future generations. In the next few days we are going to determine the quality of life and direction in which our children will be forced to endure. What will be the quality of life for these children of gay and lesbian couples? Are they being given equality of life? Fairness and justice? Same sex couples are being allowed to adopt children who are forced to live a life that they have not chosen. Will they also be forced to love the same sex because of the choice of their parents? Where is there opportunity for equal rights?

Dr. Trayce Hansen a licensed psychologist w/a clinical & forensic practice. "SS couples can be just as loving toward children as heterosexual couples, but children need much more than love". "They require distinctive qualities and complementary natures of a

male and female parent.” “Extensive research also reveals that not only mothers, but fathers, are critical to the healthy development of children.” “Mothers and fathers simply aren’t interchangeable”. “Two women can both be good mothers, but neither can be a good father”. Likewise, two men can be good fathers but neither a good mother. “SS marriage is not in the best interest of children”. “While we may empathize with those homosexuals who long to be married and parent children, we mustn’t allow our compassion for them to trump our compassion for children”. “In a contest between the desires of some homosexuals and the needs of all children, we cannot allow the children to lose”. “CAMFT (Ca Association of Marriage and Family Therapist), like all mental health organizations, must base policy decisions on scientific evidence and research findings, not personal belief and political opinion”. “Most importantly, they must never allow children to be used as guinea pigs in unwise potentially harmful social experiments”.

“It also must be expected that if society permits SS marriage, it also will have to allow other types of non-traditional marriage”. “Polygamous marriage or any other marital grouping also will be deemed discriminatory”. “The emotional & psychological ramifications of these assorted arrangements on the developing psyches and sexuality of children would be disastrous”.

Please is this the “historic step” and direction we want to travel “in our unending journey toward equality, fairness, and justice”? Please hug your child or grandchild and look into their eyes and think about their journey, their equality, their fairness and their justice.

Respectfully & Humbly submitted. Tracy Ann K. Hao

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

From: kandace agustin [<mailto:kandace96792@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 12:29 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

kandace agustin
86-203 kuwale rd
waianae, HI 96792

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

HI 96713

From: Jocelyn McMahon [<mailto:jocelyn.newlifehon@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 1:50 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to SB! Relating to Equality

October 30, 2013

Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House of 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 am a local born and raised resident of Hawaii, raised my family in this State, own a business, and serve as a Pastor in a local church.

I am opposed to SB1 Relating to Equality, this bill does not represent equality for all. In fact, the bill will deny my rights to uphold my cultural and traditional values in order to give a new set of rights to the gay and lesbian group.

Never in the history of any State legislation across the nation has such a controversial issue to reverse a State Constitution been given to a small number of legislators. If the opposition is confident that this is what Hawaii wants, then you should have no issue in passing the ball to the people of Hawaii. Let the people decide.

Thank you,

Jocelyn McMahon
Executive Pastor

New Life Church Honolulu
Location: 1190 Nu'uanu Avenue | Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Mailing: P.O. Box 37368 | Honolulu, HI 96837
Cell: 808.375.5395 | nlchonolulu.org

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 3:59 AM
To: House Special Session
Cc: alisonpascua@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (In Person)

SB1

Submitted on: 10/31/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Alison Pascua	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Re: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY
Dear Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Luke and Members of the House Judiciary and Finance Committees: I am writing to 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 am opposed to the most contentious social issue in our history being decided 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 be properly 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. I sincerely hope that you will vote against SB1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Mahalo! Alison Pascua Ewa Beach, HI

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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My name is Trenton Oshiro

I am strongly oppose to SB1

I am respectfully offended that people were turned away from the testifying. And even more offended that each person was only allowed 1 minute.

This special session is circumventing the democratic process.

If you vote Yes to this bill you are really saying that I don't want public input.

If you vote yes to this bill what you are really saying I am advocating this special session and I do not want to hold up the democratic process.

If you vote yes on this bill you are really saying that the voice of a minority is more important than the voice of the majority.

If you vote yes on this bill you are voting no to democratic process.

In a 1 minute testimony no one can accurately or adequacy, give a public input.

Can you honestly say that in a 5 day session you see and think through all the ramifications, liability, rights on both sides, religious freedoms, social impact on society, and so much more.?

This bill deserves to be carefully examine in a regular session. Anything less is not good for both the proponent of the bill and the opponents.

Trenton Oshiro

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

From: Darylynne Recaido-Huihui [<mailto:deevs1808@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 7:06 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

Aloha! I come from a strong Catholic background and been converted as a Pentecostal Christian. I also believe that Jesus doesn't love me any less than my neighbors who oppose this issue or not. I do not have any criminal charges, pay all my taxes, and recycle to help the aina. In other words, I'm a normal human being with lots of aloha. I am also a very proud member of the LGBT community and I would like to urge you to vote for the rights that ALL of humanity deserve, which is marriage equality.

Once upon a time, it was illegal for interracial couples to tie the knot and it was also an abomination to wear two different types of materials, in accordance to the Bible. Women could not vote and nonetheless, be allowed to receive education. No one should be labeled as a second-class citizen! Times have changed and we need to move forward with positivity and an open mind.

If we could just take a glance at the other countries and states that passed this bill and realize that they are still standing and able to live decently. Hawaii is known to be diverse and this would be one of the true examples of aloha. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for your consideration and this opportunity to testify.

Darylynne Recaido-Huihui
94-365 Peke Lane
Waipahu, HI 96797

Darylynne Recaido-Huihui
94-365 Peke lane
Waipahu, HI 96797

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 7:16 AM
To: House Special Session
Cc: sunnywaite@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (In Person)

SB1

Submitted on: 10/31/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Jami Waite	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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 Bill SB1. I am not a very politically active person. I'm a busy mother of 5. Yet I feel strongly enough about this bill that I hauled my 5 children to the capitol building for the rally for religious freedom on Monday evening. I am deeply concerned that this six day special session does not allow for amendments to the legislation that will serve to protect the religious freedoms guaranteed in our Constitution. It is the height of arrogance for a handful of politicians to go against the will of the people and pass a bill which will have lasting consequences and unforeseen effects on our children. A six day special session is not enough time to discuss the most controversial issue of our time. If this bill passes with the current weak religious exemptions, it will open the doors to religious persecution in the form of lawsuits against those churches who dare to hold with their (constitutional right) to disagree with the morality of same-sex marriage. Our building is used for Cub and Boy Scout meetings, girl's activity days, youth meetings, birthday parties, movie nights, women's meetings, and other functions besides Sunday worship. Ours is also a missionary church. We welcome visitors off the street and friends and neighbors. Anyone is welcome to attend our worship services and activities. Our church and its members, while accepting of those who are gay or lesbian, absolutely believes that marriage should only be between a man and a woman. The current exemption makes it so that unless our religion changes its moral code and allows gay marriage to take place in the building, our building and church will be liable to lawsuits with the "public usage" that takes place. This bill forces our church and many others around the state to either bend to the will of the state or to shut down all usage and activities for anything other than worship services. How is this religious freedom? How is this ok? Please defend our religious freedoms. Please vote no for this bill. Please stand up for me and for my children. Please take longer to debate and vet a bill so that the granting of "equal rights" does not equate to taking away religious freedoms. You should allow the people to vote on something of this magnitude. That is the right thing to do. You betray democracy if you believe that you, as a representative of the

people, somehow “know more or know better” than those who elected you. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Jami Waite Mililani, Hawaii

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

From: alexander kraft [<mailto:alexander.kraft01@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 7:06 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

And I am writing to you as mental health provider, a federal employee and kama'āina. And not only as someone who has faced life long discrimination as a gay citizen, incl Hawaii, but also someone who faced catastrophic financial distress because my partner's health insurance (unionized job!) refused to accept me as a domestic partner. This discrimination has got to stop. You know all the reasons, no need to repeat, but to say:

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

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

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Dr. Alexander Kraft

alexander kraft
1925 Kalakaua ave
Honolulu, HI 96815

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

From: Ellen Carson [<mailto:egc@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 12:24 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Equal rights for marriage should be a fundamental right.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Ellen Carson
700 Richards St 2601
Honolulu, HI 96813



THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

SENATE BILL SB1: RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. State Capitol Auditorium

RE: WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

The parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa have submitted a **total of 1,567 signed individual petitions** to various legislators, asking for their consideration to VOTE “NO” on SB1 Relating to Equality. **197 petitions were hand-delivered to Chair Rhoads’ office and 212 were hand-delivered to Chair Luke’s office.** We believe it’s important that you know these numbers as our parishioners have already felt the repercussions of the feverish haste of this Special Session.

On Friday, October 25, 2013, we submitted 209 written testimonies for Monday’s scheduled Judiciary and Labor Committee Hearing; that’s approximately 10.5% of the 2,200 testimonies submitted. This significant number that will never be known as only 160+ of our 209 submitted testimonies were recorded. The “Faithful Citizenship” of these individuals should have been recognized but it was not, their opinions should have been considered but it was not, their testimony should have been recorded but it was not. The process is flawed.

For the record, the parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa submitted personally signed petitions in opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality, to the Governor and to the following Legislators:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Governor Neil Abercrombie | (236 + Cover Letter Testimony) |
| 1. Representative Karen Awana | (1) |
| 2. Representative Lauren Cheape | (2) |
| 3. Representative Chris Lee | (3) |
| 4. Representative Suzanne Chun-Oakland | (1) |
| 5. Senator Donovan Dela Cruz | (209 + Cover Letter Testimony) |
| 6. Senator Brickwood Galuteria | (1) |
| 7. Senator Clayton Hee | (209 + Cover Letter Testimony) |

8. Senator David Ige (213 + Cover Letter Testimony)
9. Senator Michelle Kidani (8)
10. Representative Sylvia Luke (212 + Cover Letter Testimony)
11. Senate President Donna Mercado Kim (45 + Cover Letter Testimony)
12. Representative Marcus Oshiro (206 + Cover Letter Testimony)
13. Representative Karl Rhoads (197 + Cover Letter Testimony)
14. House Speaker Joseph Souki (24 + Cover Letter Testimony)

We collectively oppose SB1 for the following reasons:

- We believe SB1 has unilaterally and recklessly dismissed what the people of Hawai'i truly believe, [*§572C-2 Findings. "...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."*];
- We believe the Legislature is overreaching into church affairs and may be dangerously close to violating the separation of state and church;
- We believe that if SB1 becomes law, it may negatively impact the various social agencies and community organizations that currently utilize church facilities. We hope the State and the Legislature has taken this into account, and that you'll be prepared to support these organizations in their mission to service many of the communities you represent; and
- We believe this legislation is rooted in economics and money rather than in truth and love.

The parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows Church have aloha for everyone, and we welcome and we respect the unique dignity of each person; however, this does not take away from our firm belief that marriage is a covenant between one man, one woman, and God, and that the institution of marriage itself is reserved for one man and one woman.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to submit 1,567 testimonies in opposition of SB1.

Sincerely,

The Parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows Church
1403-A California Avenue
Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786

***"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."
Abraham Lincoln
16th President of the United States of America***

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Ivanelle Kahalepuna	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Ivanelle Kahalepuna 56-150 Leleuli Place Kahuku, HI 96731
ivy.kahalepuna@gmail.com

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Darrell Kim	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I am opposed to SB1 because of the following points: 1) This important issue should not have been rushed through a special session, but rather should have been discussed in a regular session with more opportunity for public input, or even better, put up for vote by the people in a constitutional amendment; 2) Doctrinally this bill does not align with my religious beliefs on marriage; 3) I believe that if SB1 is passed, that there are not enough religious protections included, this will take away the ability for me and my family to enjoy our religion the way we do today. Mahalo, Darrell Kim

Dear Legislators,

I would like to thank you for your hard work and dedication on behalf of the people of Hawaii. I request that you will vote in opposition to the Bill SB1 as you will give the people of Hawaii the opportunity to decide what they believe is the best for their communities. Do you believe that our way of life should be dictated by only a few? The government is supposed to be representative of all the people, not for a select few. Why the rush to pass this legislation?

Please look within yourselves and remember why you were elected, all the people are asking is that for such an important issue; Let the people decide. I have no problem with the lifestyles that certain citizens have chosen. However, I would like to exercise the same freedoms in the life style that I have chosen. Why is this law being forced upon the people?, we have requested the decision as important as this ,be made by the people .Many immigrants have fled from lands of oppression by their governments to come to the land of freedom and opportunity, the USA. Many lives have been sacrificed for this freedom. Please do not take away this freedom from us. Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter. Please vote against this bill and allow the vote of the people to decide what is best for the people.

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

From: janell beattie [<mailto:dabeatties@hawaiiintel.net>]

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 1:32 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Cc: governor.abercrombie@hawaii.gov

Subject: NO On SB1

October 30, 2013

To: Karl Rhoads, Chair
Sylvia Luke, Chair
The House Committee

From: Christian & Janell Beattie

RE: In Strong OPPOSITION to SB1, relating to "Equal Rights"

Hearing Day & Date: Thursday, Oct. 31, 2013

We are Christian & Janell Beattie. We are testifying on the measure SB1. We are in strong OPPOSITION to SB1.

The Supreme Court has already said that gay rights is not a civil rights issue. Therefore, we believe that by legalizing gay marriage, you would be trying to normalize or legitimize this lifestyle and behavior. This lifestyle is not normal.

With this lifestyle comes many physical consequences such as: HIV, HSV, Syphilis, Rectal Gonorrhea, Rectal Chlamydia, Urethral CT & GC, Pharyngeal Gonorrhea. It takes a man and a woman to procreate. God intended it that way.

It has been this way since the beginning of time. Babies cannot come from two males or two females as you already know.

If you legalize gay marriage, it would be detrimental to our society, our state, and our children.

Homosexuals will have the right to come into our public schools and teach children that homosexuality is accepted. Would you want your children to learn that lifestyle is normal? Homosexuality is NOT NORMAL! In 1998, the people of Hawaii already voted to oppose same sex marriage. We did not give the legislature the power to redefine marriage. You are not listening to the people. Who gives you the authority to change this without the people's say. If you do your research where other states and countries have legalized same sex marriage, you will see the destruction it is causing to their citizens including their children. Do your research and don't ram this down our throats.

In closing, we both are strongly urging you to vote NO to SB1!

Sincerely,
Christian & Janell Beattie
324 Olomana Street
Kailua, HI 96734
620-0939

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
ruben tabion	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: TO: CHAIR AND COMMITTEE RE: BILL SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS HEARING 10-31-13 AT STATE CAPITOL, 9A HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MY NAME IS RUBEN TABION, I OPPOSE BILL SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS FOR SAME SEX MARRIAGES FOR THE SAME REASON, A MAN SOLD HIS SOUL (AND HIS FRIEND) FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER, EVERY YES VOTE SELLS YOUR SOUL FOR A PENNY (FOR EVERY YES VOTE CHEAPENS THE VALUE OF MARRIAGE). THE BODY DIES, BUT THE SOUL LIVES ON, EVEN TO REMEMBER THE ERRORS MADE IN THIS LIFE WHILE IN HELL. IF YOU DO NOT TURN TO THE DIVINE GUIDANCE AS STATED IN OUR STATE CONSTITUTION, THEN HE WILL ASK YOU WHY YOU SOLD YOUR SOUL FOR A PENNY. MY NAME IS RUBEN TABION, I OPPOSE BILL SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS FOR SAME SEX MARRIAGES RUBEN TABION EMAIL: RUBES77@GMAIL.COM

No
Written
Testimony

**TESTIMONY ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE AT THE 31 OCTOBER 2013 SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE. NO ILLUSIONS!**

While we were blathering about Social Justice and Equal Rights, The Governor has hijacked the State Constitution and is now, along with a complicit Legislature, also in the process of rendering the voters irrelevant.

- 1. Majority of Legislators committed to their vote, in writing -- weeks ago.**
- 2. Not a comma in SB1 changed, after 1800 voters Testified on Monday.**
- 3. Today: Thousands of testimonials will be running for days, at 2 minutes each. THE PEOPLE MUST VOTE on this one.**

By now we should all know that the Governor's legal team has out done themselves with the legal gymnastics justifying this Special Session. Although the people of Hawaii could hardly have stated a clearer opinion in support of traditional marriage the Governor now attempts to force his definition of marriage upon the people of Hawaii.

After its extensive Legislative Review: Some words on "Senate Bill No. 1" itself:

- 1. POWER:** The same power seized by the Governor for this special session can now be used to define marriage in any way he and the Legislature want, any time they want. Why not polygamy – next year?
- 2. FAMILY:** Since the "Family Court will have jurisdiction over all S.B.No.1 relationships, all relationships are now "Family."
- 3. Marriage of Minors:** Fifteen and 16 year old children can be legally married as long as the "Family Court of the Circuit" approves. No mention of parents or other adults. [All subject to "Section 572-2" which doesn't exist.]
- 4. The Department of Health Rules:** "The Governor's 'Department of Health' may, at its discretion, make any changes it deems necessary..... To aid in implementation of this act!"
 - So S.B.No. 1 will be the law of the STATE, but no one will know what that means until the Governor's DOH gets through manipulating it?

Sound familiar? Just a small indication of the compromises we will all be making **so the Governor can bypass the ballot box to achieve his agenda.**

Oh, BTW: When “Same Sex Marriage” becomes the law of the Land, what happens to [“Hawaii Constitution Amendment 2”](#) that supports Traditional Marriage?

- Will we be comfortable as the laughing stock of the national legal community?

In the end, it looks like about 5000 voters put more into this Special Session than the Legislature did? What an indictment of this process!

Note: You might also be interested in my letter in the “Advertiser” this morning?

Toby Rushforth

“EL TOBO”

No
Written
Testimony

J.F. (GIUSEPPE) LOCATELLI
House District 19
Senate District 10

October 29, 2013

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

Hearing Date: Monday, October 31, 2013 at 10 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

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

Dear House Committee on Judiciary and Finance:

I am strongly opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because I believe that the word "Equality" is misrepresented in the naming of this bill and S.B. 1 contradicts the will of the people of Hawaii. Additionally, S.B. 1 undermines the First Amendment of the United States (U.S.) Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Hawaii. Our nation's 4th President and architect of the U.S. Constitution, James Madison, noted that: "*Conscience is the most sacred of all property.*" As a Catholic, I could enumerate a number of moral and ethical reasons as to why I do not lend support to S.B. 1, such as the conscious clause and the significance of the first miracle that Christ performed: "...*the wedding at Cana.*" (John 2: 1-11). Recall, the wedding at Cana was between one man and one woman. Nonetheless, I trust there have been many noteworthy points put forth more eloquently from clergy and other experts of the like. Historically speaking, it is an objective truth that the institution of marriage has been between a man and a woman, whether sanctioned by the church or state—as well as cross cultural and as "enlightened" as some of us may think we are in the 21st century, there is much wisdom to be learned from our ancestors.

Marriage during the time of the Kingdom of Hawaii was defined to consist exclusively of one man and one woman. See, e.g., Compiled Laws of the Hawaiian Kingdom (1884), Title 5, Chapter XXVIII, Article LIII. This understanding of marriage has continued in Hawaii up to the present time. This definition is consistent with the marriage laws of over 92% of the nations in the world. Because this understanding of marriage "*is made up of men and women, potential and actual mothers and fathers, it is child-centered*" (F. Rohlfsing III Esq.).

For most of U.S. history the institution of marriage vis-à-vis a family consisting of a married mother and father has benefited society as a whole. Author Nick Schulz in his book, Home Economics traces how American families have changed since the 1950s. He examines the economic consequences of the changes in the American family, and offers ideas for how to combat the issue in the years to come. Schultz writes: "If we want to talk constructively about issues such as poverty or income inequality, we need to bring what has happened to the family into the picture." He further notes that the

most beneficial scenario for a child is to have parents that are married—a biological male father and a biological female mother. S.B. 1 is yet another step away from that model of stability. In other words, we as a state, and nation for that matter, should look for ways to strengthen the institution of marriage between a man and a woman vis-à-vis the family unit, instead of ignoring it and further moving it in the opposite direction that weakens it.

Another point to take into consideration is that many studies list the United States in the top ten, and several others list it as the global leader of divorce (NationMaster.com). Given that fact, law-makers like you, should ask why a same-sex couple would want to enter into a marriage “contract?” That question may have already been answered: money and/or benefits. Based on that argument, then our state legislators should call upon our federal congressional delegation to take this issue up to the federal legislative body. Since the U.S. Supreme Court and not the State or Circuit Court ruled on the issue of federal benefits. Moreover, based on that rationale, the language at the federal level should be changed to include civil union and not marriage. In other words, civil union couples would share the same monetary benefits as married couples, husband and wife, but under the title civil union. In other words, the federal law would resemble Hawaii’s current law. This point illuminates some of the ambiguity of the legislation before you today, S.B. 1.

Although I have my objections with S.B. 1 from a Catholic and academic perspective, from a governmental standpoint, I subscribe to the wise words of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln: “...*this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*” The people of Hawaii spoke with their (super-majority) votes in 1998. Thus, the people of Hawaii should be allowed to have their say on this issue. Under our State Constitution, the only means whereby the people can directly express their view is through the constitutional amendment process. As a citizen of this great state, I strongly encourage you not to let the people be denied rather trust the people to decide.

I therefore strongly urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1.

Respectfully yours,

J.F. (Giuseppe) Locatelli

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
kelly dixon	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: 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. Hello, I just wanted to share that I live in Royal Kunia. You represent my family. I have heard about the special Session to legalize same sex marriage. I want to let you know I oppose legalizing this. Our community that is same sex couple already have the civil union which allows them to have equal benefits. My concern is that the way this bill is written it does not protect our churches. If this passes it opens up doors for those who stand firm in their beliefs not to perform these marriages to possibly be sued. Eventually the churches may have to pay out on these suits and eventually not have enough money to operate. I beleive that this issue should be presented to the people of the State of Hawaii for a vote and not be decided by the Governor and State Legislature. The way it is currently set up does not allow the people to have a voice on such an important decision. It may not seem like a big deal to most until they see how it may effect things to come. If I remember correctly you do support this same sex marriage but please no matter the topic, do it the right way. I am very concerned at the way things are being handled. It seems as though my representatives are trying to change something very important on their own when I think it is very clear that the people want to vote on this topic. I have read in other states that have passed similar law that they are now even changing birth certificates not to indicate the birth parents. How could a child find their true parents if they wanted? This is only a portion of what I have seen passed afterwards. I apologize for sounding nonprofessional but I typically do not write letters on political topics. I know I am only one person but, I am one person so I can do something. Thank you for your time and all you do for Hawaii. I will continue to pray for my leaders in office. God Bless Kelly Dixon Waipahu, HI

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

No
Written
Testimony

No
Written
Testimony

Dear Committee Members,

I am opposed to SB-1 specifically because of the hurried nature to have it pass in the legislature. Although the language of HB 117 states that "The legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples", it does not state or imply that the legislature has "EXCLUSIVE" power. I believe the language is subject to interpretation and I interpret it as the Legislature having JOINT POWER along with the people of Hawaii.

By rushing this bill through legislative session implies undertones of deceitful objectives and hidden agendas and is directly infringing upon the democratic process which our country is founded on. The last time we saw an outside entity, even transplanted entities not native to Hawai'i, come and impose their will upon the people of Hawai'i using governmental procedures and not allowing the people to voice their thoughts because they are unfamiliar with the language, our sovereign Queen was imprisoned within the walls of her palace.

As our elected officials and lawmakers, I ask that you be lawmakers and not law-breakers in this matter. It appears that our home is being invaded by intruders who have tied our hands using the language of the American law and are gagging our mouths by not allowing the people to have a voice in the matter and they are preparing for a forceful and speedy RAPE process by railroading this bill through the legislature. If you as our elected officials are not going to defend us, at the very least please allow us to defend ourselves by allowing the people to decide on this issue.

Mahalo for your time and patience,

James K. K. Baker, MSW
Concerned citizen and registered voter

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.

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.

Bryan Suka
Honolulu, HI

No
Written
Testimony

Good evening and mahalo for having me here to testify today. I oppose bill SB1, I do not support redefining marriage to include same-sex couples and this will take away my freedom of religion, children of the same-sex unions are intentionally denied a father or a mother—not because of justice in the world but as a result of two adults in a same-sex relationship who decide that what they want is more important than what children need, that’s no justice, in the TEN COMMANDMENTS it says to HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER and I truly obey Gods word,. This bill will take away my freedom of religion I want freedom and the right to worship God and help change the peoples helpless hearts when they’re in need if you personally feel that same-sex “marriage” should be established in Hawaii, then you should do the right thing, let the people decide.

Mahalo again and God loves you!

Cathy J. Wisniewski

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 9:31 AM

To: House Special Session

Cc: sethnoahj@hotmail.com

Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (In Person)

SB1

Submitted on: 10/31/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Seth Jeremiah	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: i oppose same sex marriage in hawaii. i believe the issue is far to complicated to allow to pass in a 5 day session and should be moved to the full legislative calendar in January. This bill affects my family and our ability to practice our religious values and the underlying issue of what happens after has still to be addressed.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

No
Written
Testimony

No
Written
Testimony

Aloha,

I am a 29 year old man, married with 2 children living in Honolulu. I am the brother of a homosexual man, and the nephew of 2 homosexual aunts who are married. I have to start this testimony off with these details, and the fact that I love my family with all my heart. I love them all equally whether they are homosexual or heterosexual.

That being said I have to also share that I strongly oppose S.B. 1 and Same Sex Marriage in the state of Hawaii. My opposition may seem strange since it hits so close to home, but it is rooted not only in the morals and values that I uphold and believe in, but effects I have seen on my family due to the legislative passing of Same Sex Marriage in California.

The definition of tolerance is being manipulated and changed from acceptance without agreement, to agreement with a choice. While I love my homosexual family members I should not be forced to agree with every choice those family members make.

For years I lived a life of heterosexual promiscuity, pursuing women sexually without any want of commitment, Breaking hearts and viewing women as objects to be used for my pleasure. As a woman my mother had every right to disagree with the way I treated her “fellow women” and the right to tell me (in love) how I was hurting people around me and myself.

I take the same stance now as I share this testimony, that while I love all my Homosexual brothers and sisters on the island of Hawaii,

I will not stand by and stay silent. I will speak in truth “and Love” about the harm that same sex marriage will cause it passed in the state.

Thankyou for your time and careful consideration,
Jesse Showalter

No
Written
Testimony

October 31, 2013

Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

House of Representatives:

I am submitting this written testimony in **support** of same-sex marriage. I support SB1 for the following reasons:

- As the Supreme Court has already ruled by striking down DOMA, “DOMA writes inequality into the entire United States Code” (Justice Anthony Kennedy). Indeed, SB1 is about equality, it is not about religion. It is not about children being turned into axe-murders because gay people can get married. Gay marriage is about equality. It’s the constitutionally “right” thing to do.
 - How has the separation of church and state become so blurred? Will Jewish people be forced to celebrate Christmas if gay marriage is passed? Will Christians have to forfeit Christmas trees for Hanukkah candles? **Why** is religion even mentioned in this arena? If your religion doesn’t believe in gay marriage, and you allow your religion to dictate life choices, then don’t marry someone of the same sex. See, it’s easy.
 - What is “traditional marriage”? Getting married before the woman gets pregnant? Marrying someone of the same religious background? Marrying someone who hates broccoli too? Marriage should be for whatever reasons the people involved want it to be. Straight couples marry for tax reasons alone, sometimes. And that is okay? Same-sex couples should be granted the same rights as straight people. Marriage is not about sexual orientation. Sometimes it’s about love. In any case, it should be an option for all people.
 - No one is going to force straight people to suddenly marry someone of the same sex. I have yet to hear a valid argument on how same sex marriage will affect, at all, the lives of those against it. I think cage-fighting is idiotic and horrible. So, I don’t do it. I don’t watch it. But, I don’t think it should be illegal. Same sex marriage will not hurt anyone, nor will it erode the fine state of Hawaii’s sense of Aloha. Don’t forget, it wasn’t long ago that women couldn’t vote and black people had to use separate facilities. It’s called discrimination, it is the withholding of rights to all people. Denying same-sex couples the ability to access the right of marriage and the associated federal and state benefits is denial of constitutional rights.
 - If my mother, the most hard-core, conservative Baptist that ever walked this Earth, can “come around” and accept that her daughter is gay, even send birthday cards to her daughter’s girlfriend and has changed her mind into believing gay people should be able to marry, then I think all these people testifying against gay marriage on religious grounds will come to see it’s really not such a big, bad, scary deal. It’s people living their lives, pursuing happiness. The more happy people in Hawaii=a win win for everyone. Please allow this bill to pass. I will invite you all to my wedding. But, you don’t have to come if you don’t “approve”. Doesn’t mean it has to be illegal.
- Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Sincerely,
Lisa Baxter

No
Written
Testimony

Good Morning.

My name is Phil Beyer. I am the lead pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Good Shepherd Preschool, and Mauka Makai Ministries.

I stand before you today as a citizen of TWO kingdoms. The kingdom of God and the kingdom of the government of the United States and the state of Hawaii.

I bid you a blessed All Hallow's Eve. May we be blessed here in Hawaii by family fun, and in the remembrance the faithful departed.

Also, I bid you blessings on this Reformation Day. 496 years ago this day, Martin Luther posted Ninety Five Objections regarding what might be called "the wrongful management and threat of the church and government upon the human conscience and soul." Today we celebrate to know the door to the kingdom of heaven has is open to all who wish to know Jesus the King of Peace. Happy Reformation Day.

Thank you for given me a change to testify regarding my opposition to the Same Sex marriage Bill.

My objection is threefold

First, I don't believe you can solemnize an alternative relationship to be equal to marriage. Marriage has been defined by the Scriptures, history, tradition, and governments to be the joining of one man and one woman. This union is promised the blessings of companionship, procreation, and witness.

If the people of Hawaii and it's government truly believe there is injustice towards people who have chosen monogamous same-sex relationships,

then perhaps we should consider how to provide those special benefits.

But,

do it in such a way as to not tarnish the dignity of marriage.

It is for this reason...I oppose.

Second, I oppose the bill...due to it's lack of guidelines and protection on the part of the government. The government ought to protect a citizens rights to worship freely, free speech, and free conscience.

If business owners, school administrators and educators, community leaders of non-profit organizations, and community religious leaders are forced by law to participate in solemnizing something they believe cannot be made solemn, the government has now invaded the rights of it's people.

So on behalf of my church and the community of Liliha, I must testify that I oppose the bill due to the lack of the direction and protection on the part of government regarding this matter.

As a member of the two kingdoms, I am also encouraged to know the Lord in heaven promises blessing and eternal security

especially to those who live and suffer because of civil disobedience... when the kingdoms of this world force it's citizens to live contrary to the will of God and conscience.

Third, and finally, and primarily, I oppose the Same Sex Marriage Bill because I believe you can do better than this. I believe you can devise a way to respect traditional marriage, alleviate all fears that the government will force it's citizens to act against our freedoms of worship, and speech, and conscience, and also provide special benefits to persons who wish to have a monogamous same-sex relationship....So because I believe the government can do better, and I believe you are sincerely trying to make the world a better place. If is for this primary reason, I oppose this bill.

Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 9:06 AM

To: House Special Session

Cc: jkcaloha@gmail.com

Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (In Person)

SB1

Submitted on: 10/31/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Christine Cheu	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

No
Written
Testimony

Good evening and mahalo for having me here to testify today. I oppose bill SB1, I do not support redefining marriage to include same-sex couples and this will take away my freedom of religion, children of the same-sex unions are intentionally denied a father or a mother—not because of justice in the world but as a result of two adults in a same-sex relationship who decide that what they want is more important than what children need, that’s no justice, in the TEN COMMANDMENTS it says to HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER and I truly obey Gods word,. This bill will take away my freedom of religion I want freedom and the right to worship God and help change the peoples helpless hearts when they’re in need if you personally feel that same-sex “marriage” should be established in Hawaii, then you should do the right thing, let the people decide.

Mahalo again and God loves you!

Cathy J. Wisniewski

No
Written
Testimony

J.F. (GIUSEPPE) LOCATELLI
House District 19
Senate District 10

October 29, 2013

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

Hearing Date: Monday, October 31, 2013 at 10 am
I will be present to personally deliver my testimony.

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

Dear House Committee on Judiciary and Finance:

I am strongly opposed to S.B.1, The Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013, because I believe that the word "Equality" is misrepresented in the naming of this bill and S.B. 1 contradicts the will of the people of Hawaii. Additionally, S.B. 1 undermines the First Amendment of the United States (U.S.) Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Hawaii. Our nation's 4th President and architect of the U.S. Constitution, James Madison, noted that: "*Conscience is the most sacred of all property.*" As a Catholic, I could enumerate a number of moral and ethical reasons as to why I do not lend support to S.B. 1, such as the conscious clause and the significance of the first miracle that Christ performed: "...*the wedding at Cana.*" (John 2: 1-11). Recall, the wedding at Cana was between one man and one woman. Nonetheless, I trust there have been many noteworthy points put forth more eloquently from clergy and other experts of the like. Historically speaking, it is an objective truth that the institution of marriage has been between a man and a woman, whether sanctioned by the church or state—as well as cross-cultural and as "enlightened" as some of us may think we are in the 21st century, there is much wisdom to be learned from our ancestors.

Marriage during the time of the Kingdom of Hawaii was defined to consist exclusively of one man and one woman. See, e.g., Compiled Laws of the Hawaiian Kingdom (1884), Title 5, Chapter XXVIII, Article LIII. This understanding of marriage has continued in Hawaii up to the present time. This definition is consistent with the marriage laws of over 92% of the nations in the world. Because this understanding of marriage "*is made up of men and women, potential and actual mothers and fathers, it is child-centered*" (F. Rohlfsing III Esq.).

For most of U.S. history the institution of marriage vis-à-vis a family consisting of a married mother and father has benefited society as a whole. Author Nick Schulz in his book, Home Economics traces how American families have changed since the 1950s. He examines the economic consequences of the changes in the American family, and offers ideas for how to combat the issue in the years to come. Schultz writes: "If we want to talk constructively about issues such as poverty or income inequality, we need to bring what has happened to the family into the picture." He further notes that the

most beneficial scenario for a child is to have parents that are married—a biological male father and a biological female mother. S.B. 1 is yet another step away from that model of stability. In other words, we as a state, and nation for that matter, should look for ways to strengthen the institution of marriage between a man and a woman vis-à-vis the family unit, instead of ignoring it and further moving it in the opposite direction that weakens it.

Another point to take into consideration is that many studies list the United States in the top ten, and several others list it as the global leader of divorce (NationMaster.com). Given that fact, law-makers like you, should ask why a same-sex couple would want to enter into a marriage “contract?” That question may have already been answered: money and/or benefits. Based on that argument, then our state legislators should call upon our federal congressional delegation to take this issue up to the federal legislative body. Since the U.S. Supreme Court and not the State or Circuit Court ruled on the issue of federal benefits. Moreover, based on that rationale, the language at the federal level should be changed to include civil union and not marriage. In other words, civil union couples would share the same monetary benefits as married couples, husband and wife, but under the title civil union. In other words, the federal law would resemble Hawaii’s current law. This point illuminates some of the ambiguity of the legislation before you today, S.B. 1.

Although I have my objections with S.B. 1 from a Catholic and academic perspective, from a governmental standpoint, I subscribe to the wise words of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln: “...*this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.*” The people of Hawaii spoke with their (super-majority) votes in 1998. Thus, the people of Hawaii should be allowed to have their say on this issue. Under our State Constitution, the only means whereby the people can directly express their view is through the constitutional amendment process. As a citizen of this great state, I strongly encourage you not to let the people be denied rather trust the people to decide.

I therefore strongly urge you to vote NO on S.B. 1.

Respectfully yours,

J.F. (Giuseppe) Locatelli

No
Written
Testimony

No
Written
Testimony

No
Written
Testimony



Advocates For Consumer Rights

Working for Hawaii's consumers since 1994

Scott Foster, Communications Director

808-590-5880 <afcr@hawaii.rr.com>

Testimony For Thursday, October 31, 2013

SUPPORTING SB1 RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS

10:00 a.m.

State Capitol Auditorium

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Aloha Honorable Committee Chairs & Members,

My name is Scott Foster and I am the Communications Director of Hawai'i Advocates For Consumer Rights. Our 19-year old, statewide organization was co-founded by Mr. Ralph Nader and we continue to research and testify on public-policy issues affecting the social and financial well-being inclusively *all* of our state's residents.

Our organization has supported equality in all matters and specifically the issue of marriage equality for the past 19 years. Please pass SB1 and finally be done with this issue as the rest of the world is seemingly doing as I write.

Mahalo for your time and kind consideration.

Scott Foster,
Communications Director
Hawai'i Advocates For Consumer Rights
808-590-5880

No
Written
Testimony



THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

SENATE BILL SB1: RELATING TO EQUAL RIGHTS
Hearing Date: Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. State Capitol Auditorium

RE: WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

The parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa have submitted a **total of 1,567 signed individual petitions** to various legislators, asking for their consideration to VOTE "NO" on SB1 Relating to Equality. **197 petitions were hand-delivered to Chair Rhoads' office and 212 were hand-delivered to Chair Luke's office.** We believe it's important that you know these numbers as our parishioners have already felt the repercussions of the feverish haste of this Special Session.

On Friday, October 25, 2013, we submitted 209 written testimonies for Monday's scheduled Judiciary and Labor Committee Hearing; that's approximately 10.5% of the 2,200 testimonies submitted. This significant number that will never be known as only 160+ of our 209 submitted testimonies were recorded. The "Faithful Citizenship" of these individuals should have been recognized but it was not, their opinions should have been considered but it was not, their testimony should have been recorded but it was not. The process is flawed.

For the record, the parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Wahiawa submitted personally signed petitions in opposition to SB1 Relating to Equality, to the Governor and to the following Legislators:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Governor Neil Abercrombie | (236 + Cover Letter Testimony) |
| 1. Representative Karen Awana | (1) |
| 2. Representative Lauren Cheape | (2) |
| 3. Representative Chris Lee | (3) |
| 4. Representative Suzanne Chun-Oakland | (1) |
| 5. Senator Donovan Dela Cruz | (209 + Cover Letter Testimony) |
| 6. Senator Brickwood Galuteria | (1) |
| 7. Senator Clayton Hee | (209 + Cover Letter Testimony) |

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 8. Senator David Ige | (213 + Cover Letter Testimony) |
| 9. Senator Michelle Kidani | (8) |
| 10. Representative Sylvia Luke | (212 + Cover Letter Testimony) |
| 11. Senate President Donna Mercado Kim | (45 + Cover Letter Testimony) |
| 12. Representative Marcus Oshiro | (206 + Cover Letter Testimony) |
| 13. Representative Karl Rhoads | (197 + Cover Letter Testimony) |
| 14. House Speaker Joseph Souki | (24 + Cover Letter Testimony) |

We collectively oppose SB1 for the following reasons:

- We believe SB1 has unilaterally and recklessly dismissed what the people of Hawai'i truly believe, [*§572C-2 Findings*]. "...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.";
- We believe the Legislature is overreaching into church affairs and may be dangerously close to violating the separation of state and church;
- We believe that if SB1 becomes law, it may negatively impact the various social agencies and community organizations that currently utilize church facilities. We hope the State and the Legislature has taken this into account, and that you'll be prepared to support these organizations in their mission to service many of the communities you represent; and
- We believe this legislation is rooted in economics and money rather than in truth and love.

The parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows Church have aloha for everyone, and we welcome and we respect the unique dignity of each person; however, this does not take away from our firm belief that marriage is a covenant between one man, one woman, and God, and that the institution of marriage itself is reserved for one man and one woman.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to submit 1,567 testimonies in opposition of SB1.

Sincerely,

The Parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows Church
1403-A California Avenue
Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786

*"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."
Abraham Lincoln
16th President of the United States of America*

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL SESSION SB1

My name is Roberta DS Chang. I was born and raised here in Hawaii. I am a registered voter.

To: The House of Representatives

Committee on Judiciary: Rep Karl Rhoards, Chair; Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair and Members

Committee On Finance: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair; Rep. Scott Y Nishimoto, Vice Chair; Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair and Members

October 31, 2013 10:00 am

Special Session SB1

If given a registration ticket number, I would like to testify in person.

My Testimony: I have read Special Session SB1 and I oppose it. It does not reflect nor support the majority input of the people of the State of Hawaii. It does not allow the people to decide.

My Comments: I also oppose the hurried process the Governor, the Attorney General, and Senate took to present it to the public, their review process, and their hurried passing of it in spite of the overwhelming testimonies voicing opposition to it which even the Senate Chair of the Judiciary admitted to the huge amount. He also noted that for the past 20-something years this issue had been debated with much show of the people's opposition to such issue. Yet he voted for it. This shows me how much 'respect' he and others had for the testimonies from the hard working, patient testifiers who waited into the night to voice their opposition to SB1!

In over my sixty-something years, I have never sent a testimony to any committee. I am now because I want to caution you to vote wisely and consider the huge mistake to allow SB1 to pass. The repercussions of this bill will be felt by many in the present and future. I will be looking closely to how this bill is voted upon and I will share my views with my large Ohana both here on Oahu as well as the neighbor islands.

Roberta DS Chang 10-31-13 (submitted on-line 10-30-13)

No
Written
Testimony

No
Written
Testimony

No
Written
Testimony

No
Written
Testimony

Name: Marsha Miyamoto

To: House Judiciary Committee & House Finance Committee

Date & Time of Hearing: Thursday, October 31st at 10 am

Re: Strong OPPOSITION to SB1, relating to "Equal Rights"

(Check one) I will I will not be testifying in person.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL SESSION AND SB1, RELATING TO "EQUAL RIGHTS"
Also known as the same sex "marriage" bill

Dear Chair Rhoads and Chair Luke:

As a concerned citizen, I am submitting testimony against this Special Session and the proposed bill that IF passed 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 the freedom of speech, education or employment, this bill IF passed would 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 reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples **only**. 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, SB1.

Marsha D. Miyamoto

Signature

10/31/2013

Date

deanyo@hawaii.rr.com

Email (optional)

429-1328

Phone number

Name: Margaret Scow

To: House Judiciary Committee & House Finance Committee

Date & Time of Hearing: Thursday, October 31st at 10 am

Re: Strong OPPOSITION to SB1, relating to "Equal Rights"

(Check one) I will I will not be testifying in person.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify against this Special Session and against this bill, SB1.

Margaret Scow
Signature

10/31/13
Date

AAA Drywall@hotmail.com
Email (optional)

(808)216-7416
Phone number

SB1

Submitted on: 10/31/2013

Testimony for on Oct 31, 2013 23:59PM in Conference Room Auditorium

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Randal Allred	Individual	Oppose	Yes

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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

In Hawaii, we should practice Aloha, treating people equally regardless of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, or disability . Denying people the right to marry because of their sexual orientation is wrong.

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Daphne Barbee-Wooten
1188 Bishop 1909
Honolulu, HI 96813

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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

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

The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. The US Supreme Court has spoken: denying same-sex couples the same rights afforded heterosexual couples is in violation of the Unnoted States Constitution, and it is equally in violation for the Hawaii Constitution. The scare stories promoted by certain groups and individuals that this will destroy our society, our children's education and their futures are just that: scare stories that are no different from the race-baiting seen in the past. And we know from the other jurisdictions around the country that allow gay marriages, these scare stories have NEVER materialized. I also note that support for gay marriage in Hawaii has been expressed by the following faiths: Lutheran, Methodist, Episcopal, United Church of Christ, Catholic, Jewish (Conservative and Reform), Unitarian, Ecumenical Catholic, Disciples of Christ, Quaker, Unity, Buddhist and Shinto, and I'm sure the list goes on.

Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Do what is right. Do what is pono. Do what our Constitutions demand.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

DAVID McCAULEY
3663 Alani Drive
Honolulu, HI 96822

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

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

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

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

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jill Kuykendall
83-5403 Mamalahoa Hwy.
Captain Cook, HI 96704

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Scott Sorensen
p.o. box 1858
Koloa, HI 96756

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

From: Robin Easley [mailto:robineasley63@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 8:22 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robin Easley
95-441 Kuahelani #111
Mililani, HI 96789

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

From: Robert Kauffman [<mailto:hnlgman@aol.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 8:23 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Robert Kauffman
147 Hiahana Place
Honolulu, HI 96825

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

From: Javed Maksood [<mailto:Javed@Poipubeach.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 8:28 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Javed Maksood
1792 Pe'e Rd
Koloa, HI 96756

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

From:Carolynn Griffith [<mailto:carolynngrif@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 8:45 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Carolynn Griffith
83 Nawiliwili St.
Honolulu, HI 96825

Patricia Paulino
91-1255 Kuanoo Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
(808) 457-5619
Pattypaulino0104@gmail.com

Re: Strong Opposition of SB1

Aloha Senators

I understand that you are now reviewing SB 1 "Relating to Equality." If this bill is enacted, it will forever redefine marriage in Hawaii. I'm very disappointed that the bill passed the Senate Judiciary and Labor on October 28 in spite of thousands of people, including myself, who came to capitol to oppose Senate action.

This letter is to ask you, as my legislator, please, vote NO on any piece of legislation that would redefine marriage. Hawaii, a state so rooted in tradition, overwhelmingly decided that the definition of marriage is defined by one man and one woman. This bill in its current language is inadequate to protect people of faith. Please vote how the people you represent want you to vote, not how your party or your constituents tell you to vote.

As you consider the legislation before you, I want to make it very clear that I do not support same-sex "marriage."

Thank you for your time,

Patricia Paulino

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

From: Scott Stein [<mailto:scottsinlanai@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2013 8:45 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Strong support for SB1

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Scott Stein
P.O. Box 631671
1045 Ilima Ave
Lanai City, HI 96763

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1.

Let's stop discriminating against our own family members and neighbors for whom they love. This is not a matter comparing pros and cons, but whether or not we honor our own ideals of aloha and equality before the law.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Catherine Ishida
126 Kanoelani St
Hilo, HI 96720

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Paula Trapp
3930 Pualei Circle #321
Enter address line 2
Honolulu, HI 96815

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Steve Lohse
1031 Nuuanu Ave., #2104
Honolulu, HI 96817

Aloha,

Please consider upholding the time-tested godly standard of one man/one woman definition of marriage.

Please do not be confused, as some evidently have been, about the difference between **behavior** (actions of people based on choice), and **birth characteristics**, which civil rights laws rightly are enacted to protect.

If civil rights are extended to cover sexual preferences and actions, then the adulterer or polygomist or pederast practitioner should be protected as well.

Thank you for your consideration,

Robb Finberg

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Support of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights

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Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Thomas Poole
2575 Kuhio Ave., #902
902
Honolulu, HI 96815

To: House Committees on Judiciary and Labor Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Capitol Auditorium

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Richard Aronson
36-2779 Loyola Road
PO Box 64
Laupahoehoe, HI 96764