

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: ISAAC LAA
aukai_laa@yahoo.com
HILO, HI 96720

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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.

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From: Cherie Espinueva
Pooh_a39@hotmail.com
Wailuku, HI 96793

RE: SB 1
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From: Hannah Barnes
hbarnes@hawaii.edu
Hilo, HI 96720

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Robert Rameyer
bobrameyer@gmail.com
Honolulu, HI 96815

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Civil unions are now relegating gay and lesbian couples in Hawaii to a separate and unequal status that is bound to be ruled unconstitutional by the courts. As a gay civilian federal government employee with a partner of 20 years, I am being denied many benefits and rights afforded to my straight married coworkers. It is clearly not fair and as representatives of the people of Hawaii, I would hope that you agree. Please support this marriage equality bill. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Doran Porter
Porter@hawaii.rr.com
Kaneohe, HI 96744

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I am here to testify in strong support of SB 1. This year I will turn 62. As I reflect on my life I am reminded of a time some 61 years ago when my parents took me into our local church and had me baptized a Christian. There hope was that becoming a part of the church so early that there would never come a day when I did not feel a part of God's family. Today I hear fundamentalist churches indeed tell me that I am less than and not worthy of the right to express my religious freedom by entering into marriage with the one I love. Religious extremism is not new: • About 60 years ago another civil rights issue dominated the political sphere: interracial marriage. Christians spewed Bible verses from the Old Testament that clearly showed that God did not want his chosen people mixing with other cultures. And more recently: • In October 1996, a woman had the tip of her thumb cut off for wearing nail varnish. • In May 1997, five female employees conducting research for an emergency feeding program were forced from their vehicle by members of the religious police. The religious zealots used a public address system to insult and harass the women before striking them with a metal and leather whip. • When a woman was discovered running an informal school in her apartment, religious leaders beat the children and threw the woman down a flight of stairs (breaking her leg), and then imprisoned her. They threatened to stone her family publicly if she refused to sign a declaration of loyalty to the Taliban and their laws. And the list goes on. Yes we are used to those who would deny others the right to practice religious freedom because it differs from their own. And yes we are used to politicians who cower to those extremist views rather than standing for the rights of all its citizens. However this should not be the case in America and it certainly should NOT be the case in Hawaii nei. This is NOT about accommodation nor is it about Religious freedom, those are both guaranteed in the laws of our land. What this is about is the freedom to marry the person you love. It is about a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. In Hawaii, we do not turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana - gay or straight - should have to face shame because of who he or she is and whom he or she loves. The government should not be in the business of telling people whom they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. In September 2012 I was joined with my partner in a Civil Union at our home in Kaneohe. Over 100 family and

friends joined us in that celebration, yet today we are still denied 1,138 federal rights that are afforded married couples. As this vote is taken remember the faces of some estimated one hundred thousand citizens of Hawai'i who are denied rights enjoyed by the rest of the population. VERY dear friends of mine both died recently after spending over 54 years in a committed relationship. After the death of the first partner, the other was hit with an inheritance tax of over 100K because they were not married. We have been waiting TOO long, do not deny us one more day without rights. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawai'i's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Doran J. Porter Kaneohe, Hawai'i Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Eric Palmer
krobua@gmail.com
Kihei, HI 96753

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From: Holly Broman
hbroman@mac.com
Kailua, HI 96734

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, Aloha. I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Passing this bill will be what is Pono - to finish what was started 20 years ago. It is time for Hawaii to stand up and take care of all of its People, like it had decided to in 1993 with Baehr v. Lewin. Imagine what a world this would be if we had made the right decision back then - if we had gone the direction of the heart. Countless loving couples could have been married, and countless widows would have had the same rights upon their partner's deaths as opposite-sex couples do. Countless youth would have grown up not knowing what bullying is - on either side of that bullying. Imagine how many brilliant people have perished because of the mindset that Gay is not equal - it is lesser than. Inequality has no place in this world, and especially not in Hawaii, where Ohana is everyone. It is time to re-imagine this state to reflect this, and that all are valuable. All are equal. It is time for us to not only imagine what we could be by passing this bill - an example to the rest of the country of what Aloha means - but to also imagine what it means if we do not pass this bill. What messages will we tell our Keiki and Ohana by saying there are those that are separate and that it's acceptable to make people outcasts for something as basic as who they love? How many more people will we allow to take their own lives because of the shame from both inside and out that they feel? What kind of future do we give our State of Aloha? We have come full-circle now to pass marriage equality for all Hawaii Ohana. We started the frenzy that lead to DOMA, and now it has fallen. Let us not move backwards in this. It is time for us to move forward and truly Live Aloha. Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify, and for your time.

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
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From: Stacey Moniz
StaceyMoniz@gmail.com
Pukalani, HI 96768

RE: SB 1
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From: Sara Ortiz
sara.s.ortiz@gmail.com
Honolulu, HI 96817

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Honorable Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and Esteemed Members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am respectfully submitting this letter in strong support of SB 1 and marriage equality for Hawai'i. Despite the divisiveness we have seen up until now, the issue of marriage equality transcends politics and religion. Marriage equality is an issue of human rights at their most fundamental level. As human beings, we should have the right to the most basic necessities: food, clean drinking water, basic shelter, adequate medical care, at the very least, primary education, and as citizens of this great country, basic freedoms that were granted by our forefathers in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Love as a primal human emotion should be governed then by the tenets of these fundamental human rights. As human beings, it follows that we have the right to love whom we choose and to sanctify this love through the sacred act and institution of marriage. On January 13, 2010, I graduated summa cum laude with a BA in International Studies from Hawai'i Pacific University and was honored to be selected as Valedictory Speaker of my graduating class. My mentor, then Chair of the Department of International Studies, Dr. Carlos Juárez, proudly introduced me as HPU's first valedictory speaker of Mexican heritage. As looked upon my audience of classmates with my professors and administrators behind me, I spoke of what it meant to be a student at my alma mater and what it meant to be a global citizen of Hawai'i, here in this "beautiful gathering place." I shared insights on life and implored my fellow students to create the better world our leaders have dreamed of. Finally, I acknowledged those in my life who had profoundly shaped the woman I've become, namely, "my life, my love, Edwin, who has stood by my through life's deepest valleys and highest summits, without whom I would not be standing here before you today." One month later, Edwin and I were married. In retrospect, I can't even begin to imagine having been denied the right to marry this person whom I love so deeply. Yet still, so many are. While Hawai'i Pacific University brought me here back in 2003, what has kept me here as a proud citizen of Hawai'i ten years later is our celebration of diversity and the sacredness of family, of 'ohana, that is unique to our culture. Here, we nurture an extended definition of family that is inclusive of relationships that extend beyond blood kinship to hanai spiritual kinship. I have come to learn is that the concept of family is so sacred here in Hawai'i, that opponents of marriage equality will fight to preserve archaic ideas of what a nuclear family should be instead of what it truly is, an evolving structure. Opponents of marriage equality

may argue that sanctioning marriage for two people of the same sex is wrong, a moral outrage and might lead to the very destruction of family as we know it. These claims are based on hatred and fear, and stand in flagrant contradiction of Hawai'i's foundations of tolerance and acceptance of those different from ourselves that have drawn so many "outsiders" to our shores throughout history. As the crossroads of East and West, Hawai'i finds itself in a timely position to join states leading the movement toward marriage equality. As legislators, you stand at the edge of history. As a concerned citizen and advocate for social justice, I challenge you to take a step forward and have the courage to make your decision for marriage equality based on reason and in the spirit of justice and human rights for all families of Hawai'i. Respectfully, Sara Ortiz 10 Iliahi Street Honolulu, HI 96817

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
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From: Vanessa Castro
lthrgo23@yahoo.com
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Sierra MacLeod
sierramacleod@gmail.com
Kapolei, HI 96707

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From: Bliss Kaneshiro
blissaster@aol.com
Honolulu, HI 96826

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Bliss Kaneshiro MD, MPH, FACOG 1319 Punahou Street, Suite 824 Honolulu, HI 96826
From: Bliss Kaneshiro MD, MPH Re: SB1 Relating to Equal Rights Position: Strongly Support
Dear Chair Hee, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Committee on Judiciary and Labor Members: I am writing in strong support to SB1 which recognizes marriage of individuals of the same-sex and ensures that there be no legal distinction between same-sex and opposite-sex married couples. As a women's health care provider at the University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine, I understand that lack of marriage equality has a negative effect on the health and well-being of women in same-sex relationships. No one should experience discrimination, including individuals in same-sex relationships. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) has joined other national medical organizations to endorse marriage equality (ACOG Committee Opinion #574). In summary, I support marriage equality for same-sex couples and equal treatment for these couples and their families. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this important bill. The views presented in this testimony are my own and do not reflect the position of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. Sincerely Bliss Kaneshiro MD, MPH, FACOG

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: carolyn invencion
extreme.aero6979@gmail.com
honolulu, HI 96816

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From: Tiki Suan
Tiks@hawaii.rr.com
MILILANI, HI 96789

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From: Steve Jacques
stevejacques.hawaii@gmail.com
kailua, HI 96734

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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. My partner of 25 years and I have lived in Hawaii for 22 years, paid taxes, contributed to the community as educators in the UH system, and plan to have our ashes scattered here when we die. With retirement looming soon, the benefits of marriage are indisputable. All we are asking is to be treated equally. Thank you, Steve

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Leslie Cabingabang
leslie.cabingabang@gmail.com
Waipahu, HI 96797

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From: Kylie Wilson
kyliebeth@gmail.com
Kapaa, HI 96746

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From: Kaleo Gagne
kaleoinhonolulu@yahoo.com
Honolulu, HI 96826

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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 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.



Chao Gu

Lail

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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Laie

Edward
Goodwill

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.

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SHANA YAMUCHI

LATE.

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

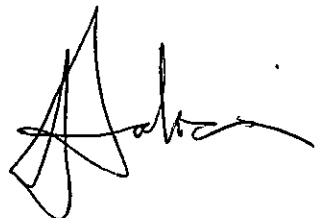
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Taylor Solovoi
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To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

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Sean O'Connor - Laie

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To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

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Cecily Crosby Laie



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

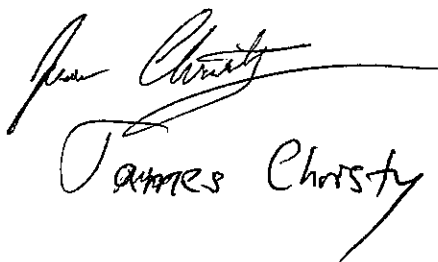
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To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

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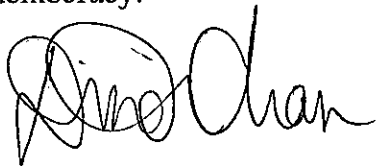
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Dindi Chan, Laie

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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Bobby
Eggleston

Laird

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

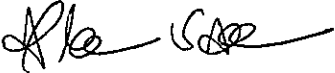
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Alexis Sanduk

City of Lore

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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Scott Shaver

LAKE, HI

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 SBI


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REAGAN ARON
WAHIAWA

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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Lair

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The House Finance Committee

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Place: Capitol Auditorium

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Spencer FORREST in Laie

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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

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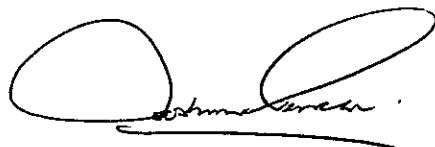
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Josiah RIBORDE

LAIE

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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Matt Sawsett
Neil Hawari

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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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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 Benjamin Johnson
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The House Finance Committee

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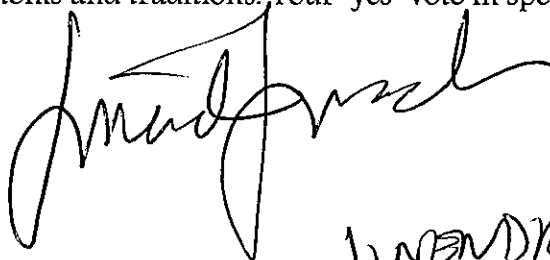
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RODNEY TONG

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

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The House Finance Committee

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LAIE, HI

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Frankie Tee Laie

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The House Finance Committee

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Place: Capitol Auditorium

Re: Strong Opposition to SB1

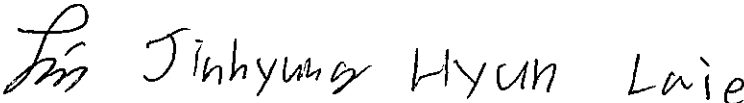
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 Jim Jinhyoung Hyun Laie

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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

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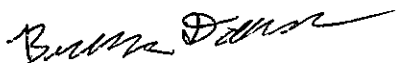
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Braden Donaldson

Laie Hawaii

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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Wenting zheng
Lai, 郑雯婷

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Caleb Earnshaw
Caleb Earnshaw

55-690 Waiheapea St
Laie HI 96762

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:

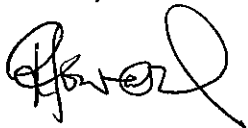
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



55-220 Kulanui Street

Laiie, Hawaii

Box 1082.

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anita Aguiar". To the right of the signature is a small handwritten mark that looks like "H-10" and a copyright symbol "©".

55-220 Kulauui Street
Laie HI 96762

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

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55-22A KULANUI ST
LAIE HI 96762

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

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676 A NANSUA LOOP
LASE 14E, 96762

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Laie, Hawaii

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Take Cozmann


KAHUKU, HI 96731

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

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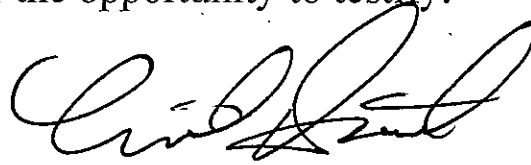
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



KATHUKU, HI

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Tay A. Smith
Kahuku, HI

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

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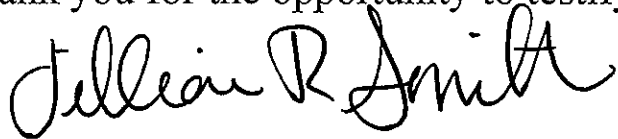
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Jelleen R. Smith
Kahuku, HI

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

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Eileen Smith
Kahuku, HI

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

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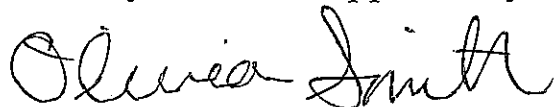
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Kahuku, Hi

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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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

CeJuv

Charmaine Gurr

Kahuku HI. 96731

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The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.


Rebecca Covarrubias

Kahuku, HI 96731

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Eleitino
Gurr

Kahuku, HI 96731

Eleitino Gurr

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The House Finance Committee

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Wendy Wells
Wendy wells

57-101 W Kuitima
Kahuku, HI 96731

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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Diego

Covarrubias

Diego Covarrubias

Kahuku, HI 96731

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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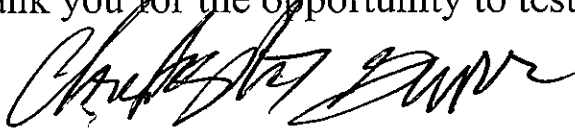
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Kahuku, Hawaii



96731

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Javier

Covarrubias

Javier Covarrubias

57-101 W Koolima Lp 83
Kahuku, HI 96731

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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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Tautai
Gurr

57-101 W Kuilima Lp 83
Kahuku, Hawaii

Tautai Gurr

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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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Seek Hannemann


*Kahuku
96731*

To: The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brianna Hanneman

Brianna Hanneman

*Kahuku
96731*

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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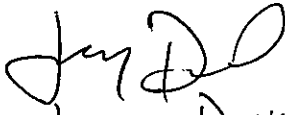
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.


Jeremy Daniel
KAMUKU, HF

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

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James Finay LAIE

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
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Cassie Lee
Cassie Lee Kahoku, HI

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The House Finance Committee

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

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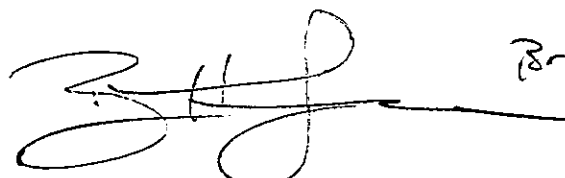
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.


Brett Lee
Kahuku, HI 96731

To: The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Terra Hartman Daniel 10/30/13
Kohuku, HI

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The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Susan Scherson

57-068 Etoku Kuidua #161

Wahuku #1 96731 808 561 3258

To: The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jonny Ray Schwanover
57-068 Elok Kuidma #661
Kahuku #1 96731 808-561-3258

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The House Finance Committee

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

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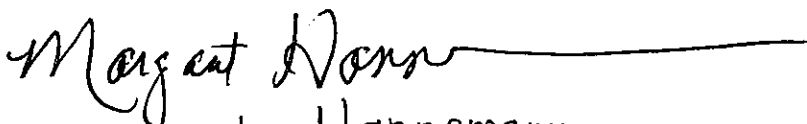
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Margaret Hannemann
Kahuku HI. 96731

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The House Finance Committee

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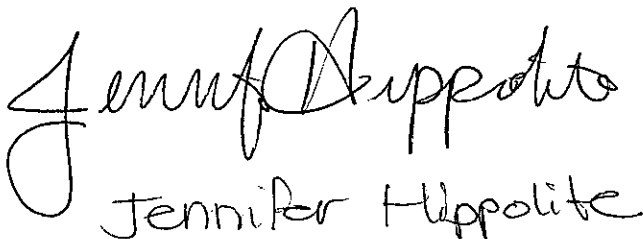
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.


Jennifer Hippolite

KATHUKU #1-96731

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The House Finance Committee

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

EMMA HIPPOLITE



KATYUKU, HI 96731

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The House Finance Committee

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The House Finance Committee

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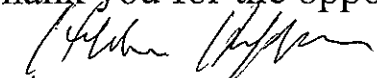
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HUTUA HIPPOLITE

KATHUKU, H 96731

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The House Finance Committee

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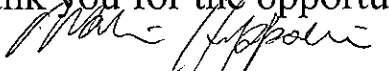
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KAHUKU, HI 96731

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The House Finance Committee

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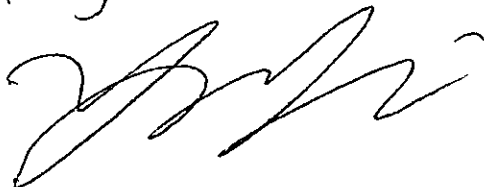
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Young Kim



505 Iosepa street
Lai, Hawaii 96762

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The House Finance Committee

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*Apenisa Tuisavima
155412 Moana St
Fair, Hawaii 96762*

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The House Finance Committee

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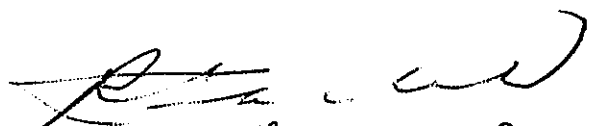
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B. O. Bob 189, Lane 96742

To: The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee

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

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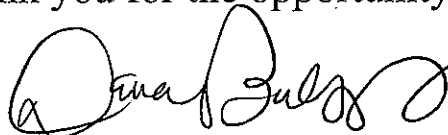
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55-423 Nannor 200P

late HJ 96742

To: The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee

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Emily Georgeston
55-092 Kulanui Lane
Laie, HI 96762

To: The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee

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

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55-092 Kuhlmann LN, Laie, HI

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The House Finance Committee

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Giosiana M. Uzonguza
55-502 B Moana ST ALE HI 96762

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The House Finance Committee

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Kent Sullivan
55-582 B Adams St, CALEH
96762.

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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.

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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.

Bosnia M. Julcaj
55502B Meana St, LAte, HI 96762

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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Katalina Bulicaj
55-502 B Meade St, LAKE, HI 96762

To: The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee

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

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Malakai M. Mekofisi

55502 B Meana St, CAIE, HI 96762

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The House Finance Committee

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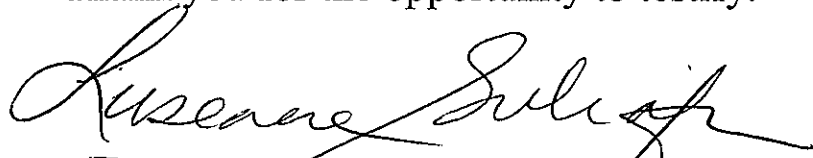
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55-502 B Mohana St, CALE HI 96762

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The House Finance Committee

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Therese Parley
PO Box 189
Laird, HI 96762

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The House Finance Committee

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Rayan Tuttle 55-513 Wapa St.
Law

To: The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee

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Bruce Tuttle 55 - 513 Iwapa St.
Law

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Mayjorie Tuttle 55-513 Lopez St.
Lave

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The House Finance Committee

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SS-513 Josepa St. Lore, HI 96762

To: The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee

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Place: Capitol Auditorium
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Balei Guisavua
5512 Moana Street
Laie, Hawaii 96742

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

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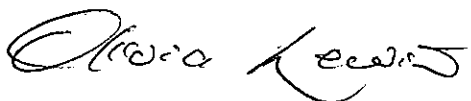
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



55-518 A JOSEPAO ST.
LAIE HI

To: The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee

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Place: Capitol Auditorium
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jerry O'Hand Myer & Marc Myer
55-515 Josepa St.
Laie, HI 96762

To: The House Judiciary Committee
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Jolene Kanthala
55-526 Ikapapa St.
Laike, HI 90702

To: The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
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55-564A MOANA ST.
LAIE, HI 96762

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SHAWN KEUMUKI ST -
55-087B LANIHULI
LAIE, HI 96762

To: The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
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SS-SSZI A MOANA.

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Ikaika Aki

55-173 Pu'uahi St.

Laiel, HI 96762

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The House Finance Committee

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Place: Capitol Auditorium

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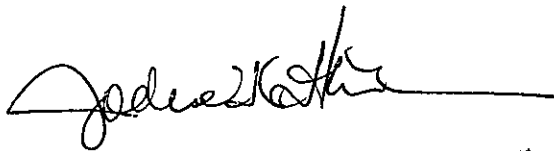
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55554a Moman St.
Lake, UT 84262

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The House Finance Committee

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

Place: Capitol Auditorium
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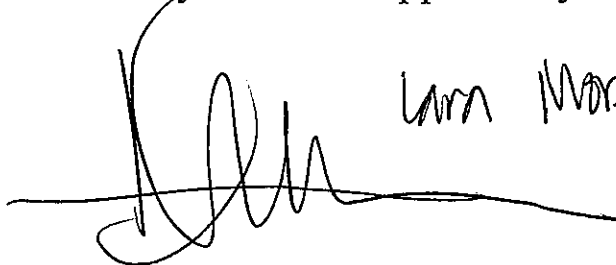
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Lynn Warehouse

55-526 1050 Pa St.
Laie HI 96762

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R Campbell
55-526 10 sep 9
LaieHi 96762

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The House Finance Committee

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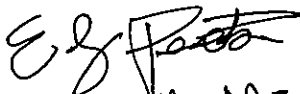
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Robert M. Street Laie

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David K. Niu, II
55-609 Moana Street
Laie, HI 96762

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The House Finance Committee
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
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Fahren LaRae Niu
55-609 Moana Street
96762 Laie, HI

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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Marah Niu
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Laie, HI 96762

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Lise Teru Nui
55-609 Moana St.
Laie, HI 96762

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

David K. Nui
55-609 Moana Street
Laie, HI 96762

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:

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lale Nihi
35-609 Moana St.
Lai, HI 96762

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Reagan Niu
55-609 Moana Street
Laie, HI 96762

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Phillip

55-535 A

Moana Street

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Laie, 96762, HI
55-562 Apt. B Mouna Str.

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Michael + Valacii Lafaele

55-550 Nantua Loop # 6195
Lave, HI 96762

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Shale Niv
SS-001 Moana St. 90702.HI
Hale, HI 96742

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Shali Niu

55-001 Moana St 90702, HI

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Shawn Niu
55-601 Moana St. 96762, HI

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

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Fogaseuga Uelose

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

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Yua Gebote

~~Teletu Street~~

Moana Str 55604

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:

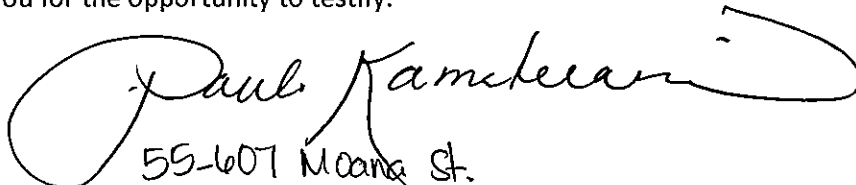
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55-607 Moana St.
Laii Hi. 96762

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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Lucas Schwalger
55.604 Moana Street
Laie

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

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Josephine, Nelson
55604 Noana. St
Laié

To: The House Judiciary Committee

The House Finance Committee

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Place: Capitol Auditorium

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Liaga Uelese
55604 Moana st.
Lai' Hi

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The House Finance Committee
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Ethan Blodak 55-608 Moana St.
Lāie, Hi. 96762

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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Ema Blodak 55-608 Moana St.
Lare, Hi. 96762

To: The House Judiciary Committee
The House Finance Committee
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, October 31, 2013, 10:00 a.m.
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Margaret Blodak 55-608 Moana St.
Laike, HI. 96762

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

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Ernest Blodak 55-608 Moana St.
Lāie, HI. 96762

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Ronja Giesser
aranyadevi@hotmail.com
Waikoloa, HI 96738

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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. For those of you who are married, just think about all the support of both government and society you get to enjoy for your relationship and family

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Beau Beadel
Beaubeadel@sbcglobal.net
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Lisa Faamausili
lbradfield39@yahoo.com
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Alexis Haban
alexis_haban@yahoo.com
Lanai City, HI 96763

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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.

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Claire McDaniel
sadhu101@yahoo.com
Hakalau, HI 96710

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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.

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Marc Tolliver
lava405event@yahoo.com
Wailuku, HI 96793

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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.

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Amanda Shaw
amandafriendshaw@gmail.com
Waimanalo, HI 96795

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I was raised in Waimanalo and am currently undertaking my PhD in Gender Studies at the London School of Economics (LSE). I also participated for two years in the successful marriage equality campaign in Argentina. The privileges of my education and travels have meant that I have studied the history of sexuality in the global North/West, as well as seen firsthand the positive personal and social changes engendered by marriage equality. Hawai'i has been at the forefront of this debate in the US since the beginning, and we now have the opportunity to embrace a small step in greater social equality. It's time for the same rights, with the same names. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Mahalo nui, Amanda

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Samantha Sherline
1hulabear@gmail.com
Naalehu, HI 96772

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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. BUT they should NOT be able to sue any business that cannot service them because of THEIR religious beliefs. That should be written into the law. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Marjorie Whippy
marji_whippy@yahoo.com
Laie, HI 96762

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Charlotte Foliaki
lotezpukapants@hawaii.rr.com
Laie, HI 96762

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: M Kimberly Lowe
catibu@earthlink.net
Honolulu, HI 96818

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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.

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Joshua Lavatai
jlava2@gmail.com
Mt. View, HI 96771

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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.

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Anne Valeron
apassionflower@gmail.com
Kapolei, HI 96707

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Sarah Loy
sarahmloy@gmail.com
Waimanalo, HI 96795

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Rayza Elvenia
kealii808@hotmail.com
Waianae, HI 96792

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Keanu Kai Harrold-ka'aihue
keanu2@hawaii.edu
Honolulu, HI 96822

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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. The United States of America is supposed to be the land of the free and I believe everyone deserves that freedom. I was told even in ancient Hawai'i men and women had other partners of the same sex. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Sherilyn Cho
scho@hawaii.edu
Kailua, HI 96734

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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. I support marriage equality because there is no reason to deny any individual the right to marry whom they love, gay or straight. There is no difference when it comes to love, it is a deep, emotional feeling that one feels for another individual, genuinely and indefinitely. To then embrace and forever hold to that feeling by being able to marry the one you love is something that no one should deny allowing any individual. To have others be able to state who can and cannot marry just does not make sense at all for the underlying reason to why people choose to get married. Please allow marriage equality for all in the state of Hawai'i.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Rikita Turner
rikita808@gmail.com
Honolulu, HI 96836

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Scott Roman
kamahele@aol.com
Honolulu, HI 96816

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I am / was a long time resident of Hawaii until I was forced to move to stay with my partner. We met when he was a foreign graduate student at the UHM and when he graduated he of course had to move back to his home country as his visa was to expire. We would like the chance to someday move home to Hawaii, but there is little chance of that unless we can be legally married in what we consider our home state. To stay together, I quit my job with a local company where I had worked for 18 years and left my family and friends behind to move overseas. My partner and I hope that one day we can return to be married in Hawaii and have the same rights in Hawaii and the USA as heterosexual couples. We miss home terribly but made this sacrifice to keep our own little family together. Please note that I have used my former Hawaii address to send this note as I am overseas. Thank you for the opportunity to testify (from Thailand), Scott Roman

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Erin Murnane
erinjanemurnane@gmail.com
Honolulu, HI 96815

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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.

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From: Gina Hunter
Half_pint44@yahoo.com
Holualoa, HI 96725

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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.

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Joseph Mellone
Jmellone@yahoo.com
Haiku, HI 96708

RE: SB 1
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From: Olivia McAllister
Mcallister.o@hotmail.com
Wahiawa, HI 96786

RE: SB 1
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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Michael Monroe
monroe@hawaii.edu
Honolulu, HI 96814

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I am a Catholic and I came to Hawaii 11 years ago from the Deep South. My home state of Georgia once prohibited marriage and other "mixing" of whites and non-whites. It clung to these anti-miscegenation laws for 213 years, until forced to repeal them just 46 years ago. Georgia would have barred nuptials such as those my wife and I shared at Saint Patrick Church on Waialae in 2009. In voting unanimously to strike such laws, the U.S. Supreme Court said: "Marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival.... To deny this fundamental freedom on so unsupportable a basis as the racial classifications embodied in these statutes, classifications so directly subversive of the principle of equality at the heart of the Fourteenth Amendment, is surely to deprive all the State's citizens of liberty without due process of law. The Fourteenth Amendment requires that the freedom of choice to marry not be restricted by invidious racial discriminations. Under our Constitution, the freedom to marry, or not to marry, a person of another race resides with the individual and cannot be infringed by the State." Please show the people of Hawaii, the nation and the world that Hawaii will not be among the last U.S. states clinging to similarly morally corrupt laws that deny the right to marry on so unsupportable a basis as sexual orientation. My personal faith is not diminished by recognizing the humanity of those once considered less human than white, straight people. I hope you can find it within your personal faith to affirm their civil rights. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: patricia Hong
mynah@hawaii.rr.com
Honolulu, HI 96825

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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From: Ann Botticelli
annbotticelli@me.com
Kailua, HI 96734

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Tracey Bennett
Tracey2@hawaii.rr.com
Honolulu, HI 96825

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1 Last week I passed a few sign wavers in front of this building. Their signs said, "Support Traditional Marriage." I don't and if they knew what it really meant, those folks wouldn't either. Traditional marriages were arranged marriages for status or for the preservation of money or property. Some men captured their wives. Or bought them for cows, goats, skins or even woodpecker scalps. Women had to be virgins. Some traditional couples didn't even meet until the wedding. Marry for love? Forget it! That was out of the question. In many countries that's still true. Women themselves had no rights in traditional marriage. They couldn't own property; they WERE property. Divorce was impossible. Wife beating was legal. An English judge said that was just fine, as long as the stick was no bigger than a thumb. Traditional marriage meant marrying someone of the same religion and above all, the same race. That's traditional marriage. But marriage has changed over time, and now it's time to change it again. Please support this bill allowing same-sex couples to marry.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Arthur Grau
simplicitous@gmail.com
Honolulu, HI 96815

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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From: Nancy Bannerman
nancybannerman@yahoo.com
Pukalani, HI 96788

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Valeriano Garrido
Hulabear4u@yahoo.com
Waialua, HI 96791

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. It is the right thing to do, as Hawaii should be a leader with this bill and just pass it, the Supreme Court has already made it unconstitutional to deny us the same rights as anyone else, secondly you rely on the Gay and Lesbian tax dollar more than married people, as they pay more for being single, let this be equal for all now. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Carol Wakayama
wakayamac001@hawaii.rr.com
Honolulu, HI 96822

RE: SB 1
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From: Michael Blattner
Mrcuddles777@aol.com
Honolulu, HI 96815

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: William Vanderlind
Billvanderlind2@gmail.com
Kihei, HI 96753

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am an Intensive Care Nurse at MMMC. I take care of the sickest people and their Ohana on this island. I do this regardless of their legal ability to get married. If I did treat them differently, that would be discriminating, unfair, and down right immoral. Treating people who want to marry a same sex partner is discriminating. End this discrimination and pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Show the rest of the country and world that Hawaii treats people equally and without prejudice. Isn't that what America is supposed to be about?

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Mae Moriwaki
mae9983@hawaii.rr.com
Honolulu, HI 96814

RE: SB 1
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From: Carla Allison
cbm@hawaii.rr.com
Honolulu, HI 96825

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Kathleen Wade
gerwaliank@gmail.com
WAILUKU, HI 96793

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Linda Lockwood
lindalockwood@earthlink.net
Honolulu, HI 96814

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. My partner had a life threatening emergency in January. Upon arriving emergency in an ambulance we were separated and kept apart because i was not considered family even tho we are recognized domestic partners. Had we been legally married, the treatment we received that night would have been unlawful! The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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From: Gabby Keolanui
oli725k@yahoo.com
kapolei, HI 96707

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From: Jeff Esmond
kepij2@yahoo.com
Kaneohe, HI 96744

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, My name is Jeff Esmond. My youngest son turned one five days ago. My older two children are three and a half and very proud of their baby brother. If ever there was a couple who believed in family and wanted children, it was us. We went through 9 in vitro fertility attempts in order to give birth to our 3 children. That's not easy, believe me. Need I tell you how much we wanted children? How much we wanted a family? Families come in many forms. For my children, they have had two parents from the day they were born. Unfortunately, their parents, my Civil Union partner and I, are not able to get married in the State of Hawaii. We are real people and our children are real people too. We represent what so many people seem to be afraid of, a loving family of 2 Daddies with happy children. No one can look at our children and tell me they don't deserve the dignity of having their two parents be married under Hawaii state law. No one can look at me and my partner and say that either. I hope I never have to explain to my children that as a family, we are second class citizens. This is not an 'us vs. them' debate. This is simply an 'us' debate because this affects every single one of us. That's because there are gay people in all of our lives, whether we admit or acknowledge it or not. Whether it is our immediate family members, our co-workers, our friends, our neighbors, the person who helps us at a place of business, or the person we help. We are not some separate minority group that can be isolated and continued to be treated as second class citizens in a secular state, we are a part of all of us. Denying us equal treatment does not mean we don't exist. This has been a more than 20 year discussion. It's time to move forward. Please support SB1 and vote yes so that all couples including couples with children and all children can be treated equally.

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From: William Richter
pahoaboi@hawaii.rr.com
Pahoa, HI 96778

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From: John Perkins
jperkins8@hawaii.rr.com
Pahoa, HI 96778

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From: Jo Pruden
jopruden@hawaii.rr.com
Mililani, HI 96789

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From: susan westmoreland
bobandsusy@hawaiiantel.net
Princeville, HI 96722

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Stephanie Heacock
peachyha2@aol.com
Honolulu, HI 96816

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. As a gay individual who is in a committed relationship, I thank you for hearing this bill. It will be a great blessing when Hawaii becomes a part of a growing number of states who recognize the importance of equality for all. My partner and I are fortunate to have met while living and working in Hawaii. We certainly hope to remain in this space where all individuals have the same rights to express their commitment to one another, and to share the same protections under the law. When the time comes to vote please don't forget that this bill comes down to family and equality. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality fo

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From: Justin Hashimoto
jpkh42@gmail.com
Pearl City, HI 96782

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I remember the day when Governor Lingle vetoed the Civil Unions Bill. Even though it was only a small minority who celebrated that decision, it was painful to watch those whom I love, whom I have always treated as my ohana, look me in the eye and smile, when they told me that I didn't deserve the same freedoms that they did. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love and commitment to the person they love. Passing Marriage Equality won't stop or prevent hatred. There is still much to be done. But passing this bill is an incredible step in the right direction, and it is completely in line with the true values of Aloha; of inclusion, kindness and equality for all. Laws don't change people. People change people. Laws provide a structure that should ideally enhance our ability to effectively communicate with compassion, reason, and understanding. You have a chance to create that opportunity here today; to make right what is wrong, to allow true aloha and true freedom to prosper. What you decide, here, today could inspire generations to come. Let's send the message that all of our Ohana is appreciated and loved. Please pass this bill. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Janine Brand
jbrand@hawaii.rr.com
Hauula, HI 96717

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From: Debbie Place
h20explorer4me@gmail.com
Waikoloa, HI 96738

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From: Caroline Delano
carolinesdelano@aol.com
Pahoa, HI 96778

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From: Kathy Nakamoto
Kathytaira@yahoo.com
Mililani, HI 96789

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From: Livi Callentine
Livi.callentine@gmail.com
wailuku, HI 96793

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From: Kaily Wakefield
kwakefield@pphi.org
Honolulu, HI 96814

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From: Rachel Domingo
dive@mauidreamsdiveco.com
Kihei, HI 96753

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From: Virginia Morgan
gmorgan@maui.net
Kihei, HI 96753

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From: Pua Auyong White
Pua888@yahoo.com
Honolulu, HI 96819

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From: Marian Tsuji
mariantsuji@hawaii.rr.com
Honolulu, HI 96822

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From: rian barreras
missytinlizzy@gmail.com
Honolulu, HI 96816

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Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. We should all be lucky we live Hawaii. Not just some of us. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jerry Derrick
Jmderrick@yahoo.com
Wailuku, HI 96793

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, My wife and I are secure enough in our marriage and sexuality to strongly support of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government and insecure should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Kandice Garza
Lilkg808@gmail.com
Kihei, HI 96753

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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.

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Bobbi Lempert
earthchild4ever@yahoo.com
Paia, HI 96779

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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.

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From: Stacy Levin
Mauilevin@hawaii.rr.com
Kihei, HI 96753

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jaqueline Vallejo
jvallejo@myhta.org
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I am 24 years old and a teacher. My partner is 26 years old and a Physical Therapist. We have been together for almost 6 years now. I was brought up as a Christian in a very small tight-knit pentecostal church. I remember when HB444 was trying to be passed, the pastors would come to our youth night and PRAY that those who supported the bill would be "troubled" until they knew the truth. At that moment, I realized that my church was praying for harm onto others and I did not feel safe. At a church service, a pastor brought up a story about a lesbian in California being raped by three men because she had a rainbow bumper sticker on her car. The pastor showed no remorse for the lesbian and actually said that she "put it upon herself" and legitimized that the rapists had done. I would sit in church and hear the pastors talk about how same-sex marriage ruined Massachusetts and they passed out copies of pamphlets mentioning a lesbian teacher telling kids how her and her partner uses sex toys and other disturbingly untrue and extreme claims. For years, I would listen to my church tell me that people like me were wrong. For years, I had not loved myself for being myself. For years, I would pray that God took the gay out of me. As a gay child, the CHURCH was the most UNSAFE place to be. The church made me feel worthless. If you pass SB1, it will show young children out there that although the church does not support them, the law DOES. Help the gay children in churches be themselves, feel safe, and know that they do have purpose in this world. That is why I support marriage equality. I am fortunate to have had gay friends growing up. For some children, the church and their family is all they have. The rate of suicide is more frequent in gay children, and passing SB1 will show children that it is okay to be who they are. Thank you for hearing my testimony.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Viviana Gutierrez
vivianag@hawaii.edu
Honolulu, HI 96815

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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.

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From: Paul Harper-O'Connor
pharperoconnorhi@gmail.com
Wailuku, HI 96793

RE: SB 1
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From: Samuel Howell
howellsm@hawaii.edu
Honolulu, HI 96822

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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From: Margaret Sporck
Maggiesporck@gmail.com
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Nadja Gassert-Depape
ndepape@usa.com
Honolulu, HI 96818

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. "One nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." As many times as I have recited those words I didn't notice the fine-print disclaimer that explained liberty and justice for all excluded our brothers and sisters who happen to love a person of the same sex. I urge you, members of the committee, to look past the rhetoric of those who fear for the fabric of our society and the safety of their children by allowing their neighbors to pledge their love to each other. How do we weaken our society by allowing an act meant to strengthen families and bring people together in support of each other? Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality across our beautiful state. Mahalo.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Rochelle dunning
sheldun9@yahoo.com
kahului, HI 96732

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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.

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From: Donna Ohora
donnaohora@hotmail.com
Volcano, HI 96785

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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.

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From: Ruth Bingham
robingham55@yahoo.com
Honolulu, HI 96816

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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From: christy vail
jvail1@outlook.com
Makawao, HI 96768

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: chris shuler
1553charnelton@gmail.com
honolulu, HI 96822

RE: SB 1
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From: Chauntell Lum Ho
clumho@yahoo.com
Hilo, HI 96720

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Christina Stout
chrissystout@gmail.com
Kahului, HI 96732

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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.

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From: Faith Harding
tophatandscarf@yahoo.com
Kapaa, HI 96746

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jessica Cole
jesscofilms@me.com
KULA, HI 96790

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Trina Gonsalves
tgons13@yahoo.com
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Samantha Weaver
sweaver@hawaii.edu
Honolulu, HI 96822

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am a lesbian member of the community, and I urge you to strongly consider passing SB1. I ask to be recognized as an equal member of this community of the beautiful state of Hawaii. To be given the same rights and benefits as any other tax paying member shows that I am respected and valued as a person. This issue is not what those fighting against the bill believe it is (e.g. destroying what God deigned to be a marriage). It is about being accepted and recognized for each and every unique aspect of a person. I want the right to marry the person who I have loved for over 5 years (which is much longer than many heterosexual partners go without being married). The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Again, this is a state issue, not a religious issue. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: vu nguyen
vu808@yahoo.com
honolulu, HI 96837

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Position: Strong Support

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From: richi nakaguma
richiidesu@gmail.com
ewa beach, HI 96706

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From: Purnima McCutcheon
mccutcheons@gmail.com
Honolulu, HI 96816

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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From: Aaron Lani
codylani@gmail.com
honolulu, HI 96822

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Bonnie Howland
bonnieleehowland@hawaii.rr.com
Kahuku, HI 96731

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Melissa Egusa
MelissaEgusa@gmail.com
Koloa, HI 96756

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Mark Davis
Dark86003@yahoo.com
Honolulu, HI 96815

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: David Goldberg
davidgol@hawaii.edu
Aiea, HI 96701

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Mark Howland
markahowland@hawaii.rr.com
Kahuku, HI 96731

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Ka'imi Nicholson
mknaloha@gmail.com
Honolulu, HI 96816

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am a wedding minister, counselor, & youth adviser in in strong & heartfelt support for SB 1. It is time to honor the freedom to marry the person one loves & to receive the legal protections this confers. It is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we live aloha & honor family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Help our gay young people be not afraid. Honor all our families, & give loved ones the right be at the bedside of those in hospital, Thank you for this opportunity to voice my heartfelt views.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jennifer Mills
jen.mills@redcross.org
Honolulu, HI 96818

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I am a 25 yr old straight female, I have many gay and lesbian friends, and my sister is a lesbian. Although frankly, our sexual orientations shouldn't have anything to do with it. Regardless of someone's religious beliefs everyone is created equal and was endowed with the same unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Love is love. Not straight love verses gay love. Marriage is marriage. Not straight marriage verses gay marriage. It is inhumane to try and take these rights away from anyone. Please think back and remember a time not too long ago when biracial marriage was illegal. I encourage you to stand on the right side of history. No one has the right to take away anyone's right to love and marriage despite race, religion, or sexual orientation. You don't have to agree with homosexuality to understand humanity and endorse equality. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for the same reasons as everyone else ☐ to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Lara Rifai
lrifai@my.hpu.edu
honolulu, HI 96822

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House 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. I never understood why anyone could have a problem with gay marriage. It does not change the value of heterosexual marriages and it doesn't change your life in any way. I believe everyone, gay or straight, should have the right to marry the person they love, no matter their gender. As long as both people are of legal age and both are in love with each other, I really don't see why not. And who are we to decide who can marry and who cannot. Gays have been exposed to so much hate and bullying for no real reason, let's try to make it up to them. I really hope that marriage equality will soon be reached in Hawaii and that everyone will be equal. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Matthew Lukens
matthew.m.lukens@gmail.com
Honolulu, HI 96822

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I am sure I am a more recent arrival to Hawaii than many who are writing you. In many ways I lost the home I came from. I was raised in Alabama, where my being gay is mocked and considered a psychological impairment to be changed. Through friends, supportive mentors, and the grace of God, I made it through my time in Alabama to go to college and seminary and have now come to Hawai'i as an ordained minister of the Episcopal Church. There are more progressive Christians than you might imagine, all of whom believe that God's example in Jesus Christ means we are to love one another as we would have ourselves be loved and love ourselves. It is out of my steadfast belief in God's love for all God's children that I am writing in support of marriage equality. Not simply for myself, but all those whose status as a minority of the population means you, as our representatives, have the obligation to protect. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Tom Aitken
generic07@bigdaddy.net
Kaneohe, HI 96744

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, With all due respect to all--I am writing in strong support for SB1 Civil Rights (Full Marriage Rights) Since I am a citizen of the United States of America, a resident of Hawai'i, an atheist, a gay man, and a father of three small children, I must assert my legal right to equality--for the sake of my children if for no one else. Therefore I am astonished that there are those who seek to prevent me and my family from rights under the law equal to those they themselves enjoy, especially when the argument against us seems to be based on the values of religious followers who would codify their particular religious declarations as statute over those who do not share their particular faith. Indeed, there are many religious organizations that disagree, and actually support equal rights for all citizens. I urge you all to be on the right side of history and support equal rights for me and my family by voting in favor of SB1 Civil Rights. Respectfully yours, Tom Aitken PO Box 800 Kaneohe, HI 96744 530-413-5588

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Cynthia Moore
crm249@hawaii.edu
Honolulu, HI 96822

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. I would like to argue that this bill is less about marriage, and more about equal rights. The current policy clearly promotes the idea of "separate, but not equal". Marriage is a basic human right that should be available to homosexuals as well as heterosexuals. Hawaii is unique because of the cultural diversity in our communities. Therefore, we should be promoting acceptance of our differences, rather than discriminating because of them. Love is the same for all couples, gay or straight. Sexual orientation is not a choice. I am able to choose my sexual orientation as much as I am able to choose the color of my skin. Homosexual couples are, and will always be, a part of Hawaii's diverse community. We deserve equal rights, as written and promised in the Declaration of Independence. I would like to end my testimony with a quote from Martin Luther King Jr.: "We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy." Thank you for your time and careful consideration.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Raj Kumar
cosmicyoga@yahoo.com
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, My name is Raj Kumar. I represent Hinduism in Interfaith alliance of Hawaii and All believers Network in Hawaii. I am also the President of Gandhi International Institute for Peace. Gandhi believed in Non-violence, peace, liberty, justice, human rights and human equality. We uphold the values of Gandhi's principles and teachings and urge the lawmakers to listen to the will of Gay and Lesbian groups, the voice of the residents of Hawaii and various organizations to pass gay marriage and give them equal opportunity and rights to start families in Hawaii. I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. "A good society is one where people from all walks of life regardless of gender live together, work together, play together and pray together." Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: martin molden
martin.molden@loqal.no
Honolulu, HI 96815

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jenna Scanlan
auntyjenna@gmail.com
Aiea, HI 96701

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: roy Nakasato
cnmoos@gmail.com
Pearl City, HI 96782

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Lisa Veneri
thekoaman@live.com
Honolulu, HI 96825

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else - to make a lifetime pro
mise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't
turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's
ohana - gay or straight - should have to face shame because of who they are and who they
love. I moved back home 11 years ago after living in California for 21 years. I was born and
raised in Hawaii, with a Portuguese, Hawaiian, German mother and a pure Italian father
from Jersey, meeting in WWII in Hamkuapoko Maui. A state in which I

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Dee Ann Fujioka-Lilley
deeann.fujioka@gmail.com
Kailua Kona, HI 96740

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I am writing in support of SB 1. I waited for 21derful years to marry my wife. I waited for Hawaii to do the right thing, and to allow us to marry in 1993, but the time wasn't right. But now is the time to do what's right. It's always time to do what's right. I married my wife in New York in the summer of 2011. I am proud to be a Hawaiian resident whose marriage is recognized by the state of Hawaii, but I'll be prouder still of the legislators with the courage to make same-sex marriage legal in our beautiful Aloha State. Thank you for doing the right thing: Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Pedro Haro
Haroarvi@gmail.com
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Philip Higgins
Philiphiggins373@hotmail.com
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

RE: SB 1
Thursday, October 31, Capitol Auditorium
Position: Strong Support

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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 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.

Lanuola D. Tilton
Honolulu, HI

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.

The people should decide this issue. The Governor and the legislature is ignoring the will of the 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!

This bill does not provide adequate safeguards to organizations such as schools and charities that are affiliate with religious organizations. It will eliminate many of the religious freedoms that have been a hallmark of this country.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Cary C. Countryman
Hauula, HI

To the Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Senate Bill 1 - Relating to Equal Rights; Marriage Equality
Special Session
Hearing Date / Time: Monday, October 28th, 2013; 10:30 am

Aloha, Senator Clayton Hee, Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, and Senator Donna Kim Mercado,

Thank you for taking the time to read and acknowledge my testimony. I realize that your time is valuable, so I will be brief.

I wish to express my opposition to this Senate Bill as relating to Marriage Equality, or in essence Same Sex Marriage. I am a voting constituent in the McCully / Moiliili District and I believe that the passing of this bill will forever shape the way our first amendment rights and the way we educate our children will be lived out.

I am a former middle school teacher in California and the Hawaii D.O.E., and current preschool director in downtown Honolulu. The ramifications of making no difference between genders (not only by giving them the right to marry, but by gender neutralizing language in documents and in practice of common language) will place proverbial cuffs on our parents and educators from teaching children the very real differences between boys and girls, men and women, and some of the traditional, yet necessary roles they occupy in society.

I am not against the union of two people who commit to love each other, but the act of marriage carries so much more weight, and changing that will leverage groups like the LGTB alliance to push for more and more rights just as they have done in Canada - since 2005 this country has struggled with the obliteration of *parental* rights to teach their children without the government getting involved through the schools, and allowing sexual education to enter the curriculum as early as *first grade*.

This issue is so much more than stopping bullying and anti-discrimination against homosexuals, it will trample on freedom of religion, speech, and education of ALL individuals. Educators and school counselors can still counsel students who have gender identity issues and discourage bullying of all kinds, even without marriage equality. The message can still be focused on the individual person or even partners who wish to continue their civil unions.

Please do not allow our state to change the face of equal rights and have a negative affect on how we raise our children. Thank you again for your time - please make the right choice for your children and grandchildren.

Most Sincerely,

Mrs. Jennifer Bryant

Testimony

House Committee on Judiciary and Finance

October 31, 2013, 10:00 am,

State Capitol Auditorium

Mr. Chairman and members of the committees, I am Joan Lee Husted, the retired Executive Director of the Hawaii State Teachers Association. I am in strong support of SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights.

The proposed legislation is an acknowledgement that we must treat our gay citizens with fairness and to extend to them the rights that our heterosexual couples enjoy. It is time.

The citizens of this state voted, in 1998, to let the legislature decide this issue. So it is in your hands, so act. It is time.

We have a proud tradition of protecting the rights of our citizens. Whether it is the equal rights amendment, allowing interracial marriages or protecting the host culture. We even led the nation with our state Supreme Court decision providing for same sex marriage. But the time was not right and the citizens said that you should decide. It is time.

As I listened to the Senate testimony, I was saddened by the horror stories that some repeated in their testimony. My educated guess is most of the testifiers who used scare tactics to convince the legislators not to pass SB 1, did not do due diligence, because if they did, they would not have repeated the false hoods. But, I did check out a few of the stories. This is what I found:

1. There is no, repeat no Massachusetts's state curriculum that require teaching a gay curriculum in the public schools. There almost 400 school districts in that state and the citizens determine the curriculum for their schools. And none, according to my research have required a "gay" curriculum.
2. Massachusetts's schools are not required to set up Gay Straight Alliance Clubs because of the gay marriage decision. These clubs have existed for more than 20 years.

3. No one went to jail for not supporting gay marriage. In the cases cited, the most that happened is that they were arrested for trespassing and/or refusing to post bail.
4. Surprise, Hamilton, Ont. is in a different country with different laws and should not even enter into the discussion. If we want to look to Canada for anything, we should look to it for a single payer health plan.

But, most importantly, this bill is about same gender marriage, not about school curriculum, there is nothing in the bill that restricts parent rights as they now exist. Teaching values still is the responsibility of the parents, explaining religious beliefs is still the responsibility of the parents. Nothing in the proposed legislation changes that. Nothing that is happening in states with same gender marriage has changed that.

Please put aside the horror stories and half-truths. It is time.

Members of the committee, in 1998, the citizens of Hawaii empowered you. It is time.

Thank you for allow me to submit testimony.

Joan Lee Husted

Retired Executive Director

Hawaii State Teachers Association

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF SB 1 RELATING TO EQUALITY

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

I am Merle Miyauchi, a registered voter residing in Aiea, HI 96701 and I am opposed to SB1.

I am thankful for the religious freedom that I have today and I want this same right passed on to my children and grandchildren. They are the future of Hawaii. Please let the people decide and vote on this most important issue of our time. Please do not compromise the First Amendment for our keiki.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Merle Miyauchi
98-1697 Kiawe St
Aiea, HI 96701

Regarding the Hawaii Marriage Equality Bill of 2013.

If I had just relied on news reports, I would have believed that the religious exemptions that Gov. Abercrombie included in this legislation truly allowed personal religious liberty when it comes to gay marriage. However, after reading the bill (which few people actually will,) I've found that the so-called "religious exemptions" in this bill are very narrow, limited and do not come anywhere close to covering *individuals* or religious organizations in their right to religious liberty.

In my view, religious liberty takes precedence over "gay marriage." While the founders of our country generally stated that we have the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," they found it important enough to specifically guarantee that no law should prohibit the free exercise of religion.

The language of the bill grants priests and bishops of any denomination the right to refuse or solemnize any marriage and frees them from being subject to fines, penalties or other civil actions.

However, there are three conditions that must be met by religious organizations in order to exempt them from legal harassment should they refuse to make their facilities available to same-sex weddings.

1. The religious facility is regularly used by the religious organization for its religious purposes.
2. The religious organization restricts use of the religious facility exclusively to its members.
3. The religious organization does not operate the religious facility as a for-profit business.

If ANY of these three conditions are not met, then the protection of the section does not cover that religious facility. Condition (2) is the most head scratching line because almost all houses of worship that I know of, DO NOT restrict their facility (i.e. chapel) exclusively to its members. Most churches welcome visitors not of their faith and therefore this condition voids the entire so called "religious exemption." This could force churches to become exclusive or stop solemnizing marriage all together. This is completely unacceptable.

Another huge flaw in the religious exemption is that it does not cover religious affiliates of churches such as Catholic Charities and other church owned adoption agencies. Schools owned by a church are not protected such as the Mormon owned Brigham Young University in Laie or the adjacent Polynesian Cultural Center. These affiliates and their employees should also be covered under the religious exemption because constitutionally, they also have the right to the free exercise of religion and should not be forced to go against their religious beliefs.

One of my biggest complaints about this bill is that it is selective in who it grants religious liberty to. This was summed up by Pakela A. who wrote a [thoughtful analysis](#) of the bill and stated:

"By limiting exemption from recognition of same-sex marriages to "religions, their houses of worship or their ministers' lawmakers are ignoring the fact that these religious entities and organizations are built upon individuals. Just as the gay communities are built upon individuals seeking rights to be protected from discrimination, the religious communities are built upon individuals and their rights to be protected from suppression of living their beliefs."

The Wall Street Journal recently published an article by Mollie Ziegler Hemingway titled "[Gay Marriage Collides With Religious Liberty.](#)" The author points out that "When the Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act in June, President Obama said: "How religious institutions define and consecrate marriage has always been up to those institutions. Nothing about this decision—which applies only to civil marriages—changes that."

Note that only "religious institutions" are guaranteed religious liberty and not individuals. The article goes on to show that regarding gay marriage and religious liberty, "tolerance is not a two-way street." Specific examples are cited of individuals and businesses who have been legally harassed or forced to close their businesses because of their religious objections to catering same-sex union celebrations.

"It's not just religious-minded business owners who need to worry. County recorders, magistrates and judges in Iowa as well as justices of the peace in Massachusetts and town clerks in New York have been told that refusing to perform services for same-sex couples will result in criminal prosecutions for misdemeanors or other sanctions. Faced with choosing between their jobs and their religious beliefs, many have resigned, including a dozen Massachusetts justices of the peace." -Mollie Ziegler Hemingway

In the LGBT community's march towards equality, people of faith have been trampled upon. Many people think this is okay because they view religion as intolerant and bigoted. But labeling people of faith as such, is in of itself, intolerant and bigoted. You cannot grant rights to one party at the expense of stripping rights from another. The gay community could very well make the same argument. Therefore a compromise is the best solution and that has already happened here in Hawaii in the shape of same-sex civil unions. I would support altering that law to allow same-sex couples to receive federal benefits.

I believe that the majority of the almost completely democratic Hawaii legislature, is wanting to be as "forward thinking" as possible, wants to stand "on the right side of history" and most likely feels that changing the meaning of marriage is "the right thing to do."

I am resigned to the fact that this bill will most likely pass due to the liberal nature of the Hawaii government. But I urge you to not be as foolish as our federal government leaders and pass the bill in order to find out what is in it. Any careful reading of the bill would show that this would be devastating to religious organizations and religious individuals.

This is such a controversial issue with heavy consequences. People have very strong and passionate feelings on both sides. I do not believe it should be decided by the legislature or the court.

The issue of "gay marriage" should be put to a *VOTE by the people*.

If the legislative body refuses to let the people decide and is determined to pass a "gay marriage" bill on their own, then I would ask them to create a religious exemption that actually works:

1. The religious exemption in the bill must be rewritten to include individuals and business owners.
2. The exemption must be worded in such a way that there is iron-clad protection for religious organizations, their members, their affiliates and their facilities.
3. The condition that houses of worship be exclusive to members is preposterous, unconstitutional and must be changed.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Rachel Murdock
Kapolei

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

From: Rachelle Rendon [<mailto:rendon1995@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 10:14 AM

To: Judiciary Special Session

Subject: Traditional marriage

Please keep marriage as man & woman only!!!! God will bless you if you do!



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, October 30, 2013 5:25 PM
To: House Special Session
Cc: whitemar07@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1 on Oct 31, 2013 10:00AM (Written Only)

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 White	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please listen to the people, I was present at the rally Monday night. There were thousands that were against the bill. If it is passed this will affect mine and everyone else's Religious Freedoms. This bill is against what the founding fathers intended for this country. Marriage is a man and a woman, that is how society is strengthened and that is how God intended it to be. How can the population increase with gay marriage? It can't! The only way the population can increase is through marriage between a MAN and a WOMAN.

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

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