

TESTIMONY
Presented before the
House Committees on Judiciary and Finance
October 31, 2013, 10:00 AM, State Capitol Auditorium
by
Sharon Mahoe, Past President of the Hawaii State Teachers Association
In strong support of SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights

Chairman Rhoads, Chairwoman Luke and Members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance:

This testimony is in strong support of SB 1 Relating to Equal Rights and is submitted by me as a retired teacher, past teacher leader and advocate, and concerned citizen of Hawaii.

It is time for Hawaii to recognize and provide for marriage equality for same gender couples. Our state's history and legacy of inclusion, honor, respect, and ALOHA for all must continue. So, too, must our strong protection of human and civil rights. Past Hawaii Legislatures have consistently demonstrated leadership and courage in this arena. Think back to when Hawaii was the first state to pass the Equal Rights Amendment to protect the rights of women; when Hawaii was one of the first states in the nation to pass the Collective Bargaining Law for the fair treatment of public employees, and when Hawaii established the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to promote and protect our indigenous language and culture. Let's not forget that Hawaii did not wait for the Supreme Court decision in 1967 to deem anti-miscegenation laws unconstitutional. Interracial marriages were accepted and common here because our leaders and our people believed in and protected what was right for all.

SB 1 reflects the growing consensus among our families, friends, and colleagues and especially among our young people that hurtful biases, intolerance and discrimination must be rejected and replaced by mutual respect, caring and trust.

As a teacher I worked with students and parents of diverse backgrounds and one critical component of student success was parental support and involvement in a child's education. Rich or poor, local or non-local, Buddhist or Christian, gay or straight—if parents supported their child's growth and learning and were actively involved in their school work, their children responded positively. And isn't this what really matters? Parents set the foundation of success for their children. They instill the values that children carry with them into adulthood. SB1 does not relieve parents of this responsibility.

As a retired teacher, I am deeply bothered by the misrepresentations and blatant untruths offered in some people's testimony at the hearing held on Monday by the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor. Here is a sampling of the untruths reported to your Senate colleagues as well as disseminated in brochures meant to dissuade support for SB1:

- Untruth: Many claimed that as a result of Massachusetts' passage of same sex marriage, the schools' curriculum was changed to promote and communicate gay marriage.
- **Truth:** No adjustments to curriculum frameworks were made in Massachusetts based on the same gender marriage laws. In fact, changes to Massachusetts' comprehensive health curriculum were adopted in 1999 five years prior to passage of same gender

marriage. Changes made in 2011 only represented the adoption of the Common Core Curriculum.

- Untruth: Massachusetts required schools to offer Gay Straight Alliance Clubs as a result of passage of gay marriage.
- **Truth:** These clubs pre-existed the same gender marriage decision in Massachusetts by at least 20 years!
- Untruth: Parents do not and will not have the right to know about sensitive curriculum taught in the classrooms, even if it conflicts with their family and faith values.
- **Truth:** In Massachusetts control of curriculum resides in the locally-elected School Committee. There are no provisions that say parents cannot know about the curriculum a school district is offering. Furthermore, in Hawaii parents have had and continue to have the right to ask that their child be excluded from school activities that conflict with their religious beliefs, etc. It is also important to note that SB1 contains no language that relates to education in our schools.

The Supreme Court's recent decision compels Hawaii to move forward to ensure that same-sex couples can benefit from the same federal rights, benefits, protections and responsibilities as those currently enjoyed by other couples. This is a matter of fairness and justice. And I ask all our legislators to live up to the legacy of past legislators by passing SB 1 and ensuring that all citizens regardless of creed, race, gender or sexual orientation are afforded equal rights under the law. I believe it is your duty as a legislator to correct any wrongs and ensure equal protection to all citizens.

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” — Mahatma Ghandi

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sharon Mahoe
Past HSTA President

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed legislation on same sex marriage. I strongly feel passing such legislation will redefine the nature of marriage and change the strong family relationships that are essential to our society. I believe in equal rights for all members of society; however, I am strongly opposed to redefining marriage as a means to accomplish this goal.

I believe that the redefinition of marriage as currently proposed will shift the discrimination felt by one group of society to another, in particular those people and organizations of faith.

During the last session, legislature was passed on civil unions. Why is there an immediate push to move forward with same sex marriage when we have not even had the time to implement civil unions in our state? The state of Hawaii has already voted "No" on this topic in 1998. Please let the people vote on the topic of same sex marriage once again.

If we the people are not allowed to vote on such a trivial issue, please consider including strong legislation that will exempt and protect those that will now face a newly created discrimination. Such an exemption should:

1. Protect religious organizations and officials from being required to support or perform same-sex marriages or from having to host same-sex marriages celebrations in their facilities.
2. Protect individuals and small businesses from being required to assist in promoting or celebrating same sex marriages.

Thank you.

Karlette Johnson

Oct 30, 10:00a

House Judiciary and Finance Committee

Re: Bill #SB1

Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

This testimony is being submitted only.

It is estimated that 5% of Hawai'i residents identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian but there are only ½ % of Hawai'i residents who are currently in Civil Unions. Which we would assume means that only 1 in 10 Gay/Lesbians are even interested in getting married. Redefining marriage will not only affect this very minute percentage of our population, but will change society forever for all Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society.

As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians.

LET THE PEOPLE VOTE!

Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in.

Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **Vote "NO"** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
Margaret Makekau
Citizen & Registered Voter

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

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

I am writing to voice my opposition to Bill SB1.

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

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! Your decision should not be made on 1 % of the population.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Letitia Reasoner
Waialua, HI 96791

Testimony House Bill SB1

Fighting Discrimination with Discrimination is WRONG:

We are certified instructor in Natural Family Planning as well as teachers of Pope John Paul II Theology of the Body.

The way it is written this bill will directly lead to an attack on religious freedom. Other States have implemented much broader provisions to insure that religious organizations who oppose the concepts of this bill will be absolutely exempt from following provisions of this law.

1. The Catholic Church which traces its roots back 2000 years has held marriage to be a Sacrament. It requires a man and a woman to vow before God and the Church to make a total, faithful, free and fruitful commitment. The sacrament is not consummated until the one flesh union sanctifies the possibility of new life- fruitful. This is a totally different definition of Marriage which cannot be "equaled" by the provisions of this bill. It will never be possible for same sex couples. Even the thought of in any way forcing the recognition of same sex relationships where it would be physiologically impossible would constitute a direct attack against the religious belief which far supersedes the existence of the State!
2. Nobody is talking about the (perhaps Billions of Dollars) of forms, documents, flyers and books that will have to be re-written to eliminate gender specific terms.
3. Based on provisions of the current bill the way it is written, the taxpayers of the State will incur perhaps millions of dollars of additional costs because it will lose services which are now costing taxpayers zero dollars. For instances in Massachusetts, Catholic Charities was forced to close down rather than go against religious beliefs.
4. Lastly, many innocent organizations such as boy scouts, will lose the right to use facilities which are now made available to them mostly free of charge for fear that they will be forced to allow the use of the facilities by those who oppose the religious teachings.

Respectfully submitted by:

Edward T. Coda

1315 Moanalualani Pl, Apt. D

Honolulu, HI 96819

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

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

I stand in opposition to SB 1. My voice as well as THOUSANDS of others opposed to this Bill needs to be heard. It is an outrage that the Senate voted so quickly while knowing they did not hear and take time to consider the voice of the people. This legislation should be put before the voters of this state to let *we the people* decide. The passage of this Bill will **negatively** impact the lives as well as the rights of the rest of us who believe and stand for traditional marriage.

This Bill is more than equality. It directly challenges the religious definition of marriage. How can this possibly NOT be a religious issue as well?

In Massachusetts, the educational system was immediately affected by the passage of this legislation. Parents opposed to having their kindergarten and elementary children taught about same sex relationships were told by the federal courts that the schools had no obligation to notify or give parents the option to opt out because same sex was legalized and considered normal. This denial of my parental and religious rights will surely come to pass if this Bill is approved. Our country was founded on the Word of God by our founding fathers. God and His Word is not the problem. Redefining it is.

This is just an example of the ramifications that will come about with the approval of such a Bill. This Bill will not only affect our educational system. It will negatively impact our legal and judicial system, augment government mandates, harass churches, and the list goes on. We can look at what has happened in Massachusetts in the last ten years and Canada to note what has taken place. Has this avenue been debated over? This 5 day special session is NOT adequate to digest the views and information from both sides nor does it address the consequences or take into consideration what has happened as the result such a passage in states like Massachusetts. Moreover, the voices of the majority of full time resident voters in this state ~ not special interest groups~ has been fully heard!

Please DO NOT pass this Bill! I urge you all to vote NO. Let the voting residents of this State decide.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our Aloha State.

Mahalo,

Mrs. Sharon Martin
Pharmacist
Windward Resident

TESTIMONY on Measure SB1

I am opposed to redefining marriage. I believe it will affect Hawaii in a negative way, and once it becomes law, there will be no way of reversing.

I am most concerned about two things:

I believe there will indeed be a problem for private Christian business owners who do not wish to service same-sex marriages. Although there have been provisions made in the wording of this bill that would make allowances for Christian churches, there is no protection for the business owner who finds themselves refusing business versus having to go against their religious beliefs.

I believe that the public education system will have to teach children that marriage includes couples of the same sex, thereby normalizing and embracing homosexual relationships. I am concerned that Christian teachers who do not wish to teach this material would be penalized as well as Christian parents who do not want it taught to their children.

I do support equal rights for gay couples. I do think they should be able to be included on their partner's insurance as well as collect benefits for a deceased partner. My opposition comes to the redefining of the term marriage.

I believe the citizens of Hawaii should have a say in this matter. Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Angela M. Toma
1253 Kaumana Drive
Hilo, HI 96720

October 30, 2013

RE: Bill HB1 - SB1
Unequal Rights Misnamed "Relating to Equal Rights"

Dear Hawaii Legislators:

As a Hawaii voter I have two major concerns regarding Bill HB1/SB1 as follows:

CONCERN #1:

On Page 6, Line 4 572-F "Religious Organizations and Facilities; Liability Exemption Under Certain Circumstances."

There is a loophole in the phrases "used by the general public" "for profit".

NO PERSON should be compelled to host a particular client by their First Amendment rights.

CONCERN #2:

On Page 12, Line 15, 572C-2 Findings

How can you just strike out the law that says: "**THE LEGISLATURE FINDS THAT THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII CHOOSE TO PRESERVE THE TRADITION OF MARRIAGE as a unique social institution based upon committed union of one man and one woman.**" ?

How can a handful of you, albeit our chosen legislators, change the law of the land? I am shocked by the impulsive irresponsible push of this bill behind closed doors on short notice and without the input of all of the people of Hawaii, your constituents, giving Rights to some at the expense of the Rights of others. Auwe.

With Aloha and Appreciation of your service to ALL of Hawaii's people...

Esther Abbey

Kaaawa District
For Traditional Marriage (voted for in 1998)
Christian Hawaii voter with love for ALL of her people

RE: Bill HB1 - SB1

RE: Unequal Rights Misnamed "Relating to Equal Rights"

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How can a handful of you, albeit our chosen legislators, change the law? I am shocked by the impulsive irresponsible push of this bill behind closed doors on short notice and without the input of all of the people of Hawaii, your constituents, giving Rights to some at the expense of others!?

Sincerely,

Esther Abbey

Kaaawa

For Traditional Marriage (voted for in 1998)

To our legislators

We have placed our full faith and trust in our government leaders whom we hoped would represent our best interest and uphold the motto of our land: "Ua mau ka ea o ka aina i kaponono." (The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness)

We are not in favor of this bill because our religious rights are directly affected and our future generations will have to deal with this terrible "mess". Every business and variety of occupations and family life will be interrupted.

We cannot stand idly by and have you think it doesn't matter to us. We strongly oppose any actions which does not reflect the interest of our whole community. Your decision alone to vote for this bill is surely not fair to all of us. Please reconsider and make the right decision for us as voters of Hawaii.

Junichi and Shirley Nakamoto (Iokepa)
Kealakekua, Hawaii

October 31, 2013
Testimony in Regards to SB1
In Favor

Aloha,

I know that you have had the opportunity to listen and read thousands of testimonies in the past week but I wanted to voice my opinion as a Christian registered Republican Woman who is in support of SB1. I know that you are going to have much more eloquent and very well thought out testimonies given than this one. I simply want to make a few points I believe that my brothers and sisters of this wonderful state have been leaving out.

First, sexual orientation is not a choice. It may not be linked to a specific gene, yet, but it is absolutely not a “lifestyle choice”. For most of the 20th Century Homosexuality was considered a mental illness, however in 1974 that was changed. Studies are still being conducted to prove that Homosexuality is not in fact a mental illness. In a recent Washington Times article writer Paul Mountjoy describes the results from a 40 year study on homosexuality performed by the American Psychological Association,

Psychology recognizes people express their sexual orientation through behaviors and these behaviors designed to bond are described as holding hands, kissing and intimacy and affection. Non- affectionate behaviors include deeply felt need for love and attachment, shared goals, and values, mutual support and long term outgoing commitment.

I understand that some people do not wish to view this as scientific fact, however, just because scientists have yet to find the genetic makeup that dictates human behavior does not mean that it does not exist. Until then we are going to have to rely on the highly educated specialists of the American Psychological Association to peer into human behavior.

The second point I would like to make has to do with the issue of child rearing and procreation. Many individuals are arguing that we as humans will not be able to continue procreating if we “allow” Homosexuals to think that they are “normal”. According to the Congressional Coalition on Adoption there are 400,540 children living without permanent homes in the United States alone. Once again that number is four hundred thousand five hundred forty children. Homosexual couples not being able to “procreate” can be viewed as a blessing in a world where so many children do not have family. Another argument that I often hear is about the effects on children being raised in a Homosexual home. I am sure that you have all seen Case No. S147999 in the Supreme Court of the State of California, In re Marriage Cases Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4365(...). It states,

Although it is sometimes asserted in policy debates that heterosexual couples are inherently better parents than same-sex couples, or that the children of lesbian or gay parents fare worse than children raised by heterosexual parents, those assertions are not supported by scientific research literature.

As you can see, once again there is no scientific research to support the claim that Homosexuality harms children being raised. It instead could be the life changing moment for a child in the foster care system so desperately wanting stability and love.

The last point I would like to make has to do with religion. I know that many of you are also followers of Christ. I would like very much to recommend that you at some point read God Believes in Love by Gene Robinson. He is much more eloquent and studied than I am on scripture. In his book he speaks about many of the common verses quoted when saying that Homosexuality is a sin. For instance, the most commonly used one is found in Leviticus. However, if you are not an Orthodox Jew chances are you follow the New Testament which disregards the Holy Laws or Levitical Laws. Every time Paul writes to his brothers and sisters in Christ he writes that even the Pharisee's followed the Holy Laws but that did not bring them salvation. In Colossians, Thessalonians, Philipians, every time Paul warns his brothers and sisters that following the Holy Laws will not lead to salvation. If Paul was so adamant about warning followers then why are we disregarding his warnings now? I implore you to sincerely pray and search the scriptures with your heart un-hardened by the world and by the influence of others if you are going to deciding the fate of an entire community of people based on what so many other fellow Christ followers have been saying.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this testimony, serving our Aloha State, and the chance to grant Equality for ALL of this states citizens.

Sincerely,

Carollyne Killackey
91-1001 Opaehuna St.
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/steps-authentic-happiness-positive-psychology/2013/apr/14/homosexuality-choice-modern-science-says-no/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homosexuality_and_psychology

<http://www.ccainstitute.org/why-we-do-it/facts-and-statistics.html>

Joanna A. Chinen
45-402 Koa Kahiko Street
Kaneohe, HI 96744
808-728-7979
joannachinen@gmail.com

October 28, 2013

To: Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Finance Committee

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1 Relating to Equality

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

I am humbly asking you to please vote NO on any piece of legislation that would redefine marriage, specifically SB 1. Not only are the people of Hawaii not being given a fair chance to get educated and vote ourselves on such a significant and consequential issue, but it seems that at its onset, Governor Abercrombie's Marriage Equality bill did not seek to consider the good of our entire state and ALL of Hawaii's families, but was written solely in the interest of one group and at the expense of many others.

I was born and raised in Honolulu, am of native Hawaiian descent, and am now raising my two children in Kaneohe. We love our Hawaii home and all the people who live in and visit our islands. I feel blessed that right now I am able to teach my children in accordance with our faith, which does happen to uphold marriage as a union between one man and one woman, and which does happen to view the homosexual lifestyle as wrong. But it also is a faith that teaches us to love everyone, regardless of differences in opinion and values. My husband and I know and have friends who are homosexuals, and like the rest of our friends, we love them and want the very best for them. We are teaching our children to show them the same kindness and respect that every human being is deserving of.

But what happens when one day, it is not enough for us to agree to disagree? What happens when it becomes not ok to simply think differently and live one's own life differently? What happens when my children choose not to participate in potential gay pride activities in school and are ostracized or even reprimanded for not wanting to compromise their beliefs? When my children become ridiculed and discriminated against for living according to their faith? What happens when our family wants to adopt or foster children, but are not allowed to really raise them as

our own and teach them to uphold the values of our family, while a GLBT family who adopts or fosters is able to raise their children in accordance with their values?

Is this bill really going to protect all of Hawaii's people and ensure that no one will be penalized for merely disagreeing with a certain lifestyle and for living by that conviction? Will it ensure the blessings of liberty for all?

As our legislators, you have been entrusted with a decision that if passed, will forever change the culture and spirit of our beautiful home – the life of which has been perpetuated in righteousness and true aloha for all. Please represent and protect we the people.

Thank you very much for your time and courageous service. God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Joanna A. Chinen

October 31, 2013
10:00a

House Judiciary and Finance Committee
Re: Bill #SB1
Hawaii State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

This testimony is being submitted only.

It is estimated that 5% of Hawai'i residents identify themselves as Gay or Lesbian but there are only ½ % of Hawai'i residents who are currently in Civil Union. Which we would assume means that only 1 in 10 Gay/Lesbians are even interested in getting married. Redefining marriage will not only affect this very minute percentage of our population, but will change society forever for all Hawai'i residents. Changing the definition of marriage is changing the morals of our society. As our school system is the means to educate our children on the laws and morals of our Society, passing this bill will also greatly affect the curriculum taught to all of our children. This is something that should be decided by the people, and not by a handful of politicians. If the majority of our people feel that our children should be taught that having a Gay or Lesbian marriage is an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage, then so be it. But **LET THE PEOPLE VOTE!**

If perhaps the majority of people in Hawai'i do feel that they would like Same-sex marriage to be deemed as an acceptable alternative to heterosexual marriage then it would be important that **sufficient protections are put in place so that the religious rights of our people are not infringed upon.** Religious Freedom is one of the founding principles of our country. It is not uncommon knowledge that the bible

teaches that Gay and Lesbian relationships are against the laws of God. It is not a new radical philosophy but a moral principle that has been in place for thousands of years. It is a principle that even our founding forefathers believed in. Although society is changing, the bible has not changed, and many people still uphold the principles in the bible. It is their religious right to do so. To require any religious leader, organization, small business or individual to provide goods or services that assist or promote the solemnization or celebration of any marriage, or provide counseling or other services that directly facilitate the perpetuation of any marriage that is against their religious beliefs would be infringing on their religious rights.

For these reasons, I humbly request that you **VOTE "No"** to Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013.

Sincerely,
Lori P. Kaiama
Molokai Resident & Registered Voter
P. O. Box 2065
Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748

Committee Hearing before the Assembly on XX, Marriage Equality bill
Hawai'i State Legislature

10/30/13

10:00am

Statement Submitted by: (GLSEN) Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network,
Hawai'i Chapter

RE: SB-01 (Rhoads) - SUPPORT

Aloha Judiciary Chair Rep. Karl Rhoads and Vice Chair Rep. Sharon Har, and Finance Chair
Rep. Sylvia Luke and Vice Chairs Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson and Rep. Scott Nishimoto,

Thank you for receiving my testimony today.

My name is Antonia Alvarez and I'm a Licensed Master of Social Work (LMSW) in the State of
Hawai'i testifying in strong support of the Marriage Equality Bill (SB-01).

I work with youth around the state who are at-risk of bullying and suicidality, and I am the
Director of the GROW A RAINBOW program, to educate service providers in the community
about creating safe, equal spaces for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth. I am
also a trainer for the Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network (GLSEN) Hawai'i Chapter, the
local branch of the national educational organization that promotes safety and equality for all
students.

At the Senate hearings on Monday we heard a lot about the "unintended consequences" of
passing the bill—opponents suggested that there would be "curricular reforms" that prevent

teachers in public schools from mis-informing their students, that there would be mandatory trainings for teachers that would give them more information about gay and lesbian issues, and that teachers would have to refrain from sharing their personal religious beliefs with their students about these issues. I think it is very important to clarify a few things. First, this bill would not interfere in educational outcomes and success for any student. This bill is about marriage equality and the civil rights of gays and lesbians in the state of Hawai`i. Second, it is important to note that teachers in public schools who share their religious beliefs about gays and lesbians are violating the establishment clause which limits a teacher's religious expression due to the separation between church and state (<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/teachers-religious-liberties>). Third, in 2012 the Hawai`i State Department of Education already agreed to—and, in fact requested resources from GLSEN for their faculty, staff, and administration to raise awareness about LGBT youth and families in order to implement the Department of Education “*Strategic Plan Student Priority of “Safety and Well-Being,” to promote students’ physical, emotional, and social health in a secure and supportive environment,*”¹). This bill will not change that.

Instead, I would like to discuss some of the INTENDED CONSEQUENCES should this bill not pass. By not passing this legislation, the Hawai`i State Legislature signals that it does not believe in marriage equality, but *inequality* and *unequal rights* for the gay and lesbian families, individuals, and couples in our state. The consequences will be the sanctioned discrimination against gay and lesbian families, individuals, youth, and couples all over Hawai`i.

States that failed to legislate equal rights and protections for their citizens have suffered greatly.

¹ Memo from Office of the Superintendent to all Middle and High School Principals, April 20, 2012

Children and youth from communities that promote anti-LGBT, discriminatory policies are at higher risk for bullying, harassment, isolation, and even suicide. Nine children in two years died by suicide in one of the largest school districts in Minnesota as the State Legislature failed to pass anti-bullying legislation or to condemn the homophobic policies in the school district's curriculum^{2,3}. Research indicates that *all children*—gay, lesbian, straight, or otherwise—who are exposed to high levels of bullying, harassment and isolation face higher rates of depression, absenteeism, truancy, and suicidality^{4,5}.

GLSEN (www.glsen.org) has fourteen years of research that documents the improved behaviors, attitudes, and actions of youth who attend schools with policies that emphasize safety, equality, and respect for all students. These schools have documented less bullying and less harassment against *all students* than other schools. Teachers, administrators, and service providers in Hawai`i would like to see such positive changes in our schools. In April 2012 the Superintendent of the State of Hawai`i Department of Education, Kathryn Matayoshi distributed GLSEN "Safe Space Kits" to every secondary school in the State to demonstrate Hawai`i's commitment to safer, healthier schools for all youth. Additionally, out of the 800 teachers, administrators, social workers, and principals that I have trained in the last three years about the impact of anti-LGBT bullying and harassment on the youth and families in our state, *not one* has indicated that they wished to see this discrimination continue in their schools and classrooms.

² "Michele Bachmann Silent On Teen Suicides In Her School District, Opposed Anti-Bullying Bill", *Huffington Post*, July 26, 2011

³ "One Town's War on Gay Teens", *Rolling Stone Magazine*, February 2, 2012

⁴ "Effects of Bullying," <http://www.stopbullying.gov/at-risk/effects/index.html>

⁵ "Bullied Children at Greater Risk for Self-Harm"

The INTENDED CONSEQUENCES of discrimination against the youth, individuals, couples and families of Hawai`i are unacceptable. We MUST pass this bill.

The children and youth of Hawai`i need to see their law makers take a stand to reduce the discrimination and harassment in our communities. They gay and lesbian youth need to see healthy, respected, equal role models among the adults in our communities—from gays, lesbians, and allies alike. The Family Acceptance Project (<http://familyproject.sfsu.edu/>), the longest running research project on LGBT youth in the country, has shown that the risks facing LGBT youth are *exponentially reduced* when they are accepted by their families. The youth have lower documented rates of drug and alcohol abuse, fewer sexually transmitted diseases, lower rates of depression and lower rates of suicidality. These are the unintended consequences of passing this bill and creating a more equal, just, pono Hawai`i.

We've seen the actions from Superintendent Matayoshi-- our schools are ready. We've heard from the HSTA-- our teachers are ready. We heard from the NASW—our social workers are ready. We've even heard from the youth—marriage equality was the number one priority identified by the young people of Hawai`i who attended the 20th Annual Children and Youth Summit hosted by the State Legislature's Keiki Caucus. The youth are ready!

We must be brave enough to join them.

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: Reverend Rosemary Cuccia
Honolulu, HI 96830
imasong@aol.com

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. In reference to the laws of separation of church and state do not allow religious definitions of what marriage is or should be affect the decisions of our government. All individuals regardless of their gender should have the right to committ and marry the person they want to share their life with. Gender should never be the considered in making your decision. Instead, the rights of equal opportunity and non-discrimination should be the core reason to allow all people to marry. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be

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: Sasha Kaopua
Hilo, HI 96720
Buslover@live.com

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: Naren Diego
Honolulu, HI 96819
diego_naren@yahoo.com

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

From: Bob Anderson
Kailua, HI 96734
kailua5@aol.com

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: Patty Gorski
L?na'i city, HI 96763
Gorskified@gmail.com

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 teacher in Hawai'i, and our children need to know that our nation does not discriminate against any class of persons. I need to teach them that historically, the discrimination against native Americans, African Americans, Japanese, and women, has taught our nation valuable lessons. We cannot preach equality if it doesn't exist for all of our citizens. We cannot teach tolerance and acceptance if it's not written into the laws our Constitution guarantees us. We all deserve the freedoms allotted to anyone else in this great country of ours, otherwise, we fail to uphold the claim of being the land of the free. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: dennis chaquette
keaa, HI 96749
pastry.headchefbaker@yahoo.com

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. People have freedom of Religion, but this was not always true. People are not slaves anymore, but this was not always true. People of African descent, did not always have equal rights. A select group of Americans, right now, do not have equal rights. Each step took good hearted people to help come true. I am not gay, but I do not believe in having rights others do not have. That is reserved for countries whose citizens do not have real freedom. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Karen Downard
Kihei, HI 96753
Karen.downard@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Kerith Harding
Kula, HI 96790
kerith.harding@gmail.com

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, Separate is not equal. And, just as we no longer have separate water fountains or lunch counters for people of different races, we should no longer have separate relationship statuses for people of different sexual-orientations. Which of you, who are married, would trade your marriage for a civil union? If you are not immediately jumping up and saying that you would do so, then please consider why that is the case. Words matter. I certainly would not choose to trade my marriage for a civil union, although by moving to Hawaii one year ago, I effectively did so. What was a marriage in Connecticut is seen as a Civil Union here because I happen to be a member of a same-sex couple. Let me tell you- it doesn't feel good, or fair, or right. It feels like second-class citizenship. As both a citizen, and a Christian minister, I advocate equal treatment for all people. I want all couples to have the joy that I did when I walked down the aisle and was married in the same way that my friends in opposite-sex couples had been doing for years. Please pass this bill so that all our citizens may be treated equally. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Mattielin Mann
Aiea, HI 96701
BuggNY@aol.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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From: Michael Peyatt
Kapaa, HI 96746
kuaibound@prodigy.net

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From: Nancy Shoop-Wu
Honolulu, HI 96826
nsw@hawaiiantel.net

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
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From: Joy Nagata
Mililani, HI 96789
ajnagata@hawaiiantel.net

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From: Valerie Gordon
Kihei, HI 96753
valjgordon@hotmail.com

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From: Michelle Hamilton
Honolulu, HI 96817
Michelle.n.hawaii@gmail.com

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From: Nat DeRoquemaurel
Honolulu, HI 96815
gantibaba911@gmail.com

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From: Sally Kimura
Kamuela, HI 96743
malu10@aol.com

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From: Jason Youn
Honolulu, HI 96822
jaedoyoun@hotmail.com

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From: Justin Dery
Kaneohe, HI 96744
deryjm@gmail.com

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From: Rev. Angela Freeman
Honolulu, HI 96822
pr.angela@lchwelcome.org

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From: Virginia Bennett
honolulu, HI 96822
vbennett@hawaii.edu

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From: Zoe Vorsino
Honolulu, HI 96825
zvorsino@gmail.com

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From: PHILLIPPE GALICINAO
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Pfgalici@hawaii.edu

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Kaneohe, HI 96744
Pfgalici@hawaii.edu

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From: Sheila O'Keefe
Honolulu, HI 96822
shesokinhi@yahoo.com

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. While the rest of this letter is taken from the suggested verbiage, please believe me, I whole heartedly support the passage of this bill and hope you and the Hawaii Legislature will do the right thing and pass this bill to allow same-gendered couples to marry legally in Hawaii. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else - to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana - gay or straight - should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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From: Aaron Oxley
Honolulu, HI 96822
ajoxley@gmail.com

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From: james clawson
Honolulu, HI 96815
clawson-j@sbcglobal.net

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From: Craig Tennant
Laupahoehoe, HI 96764
Blueview@hawaiiantel.net

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. After watching the testimony on Monday for several hours the line in the sand came into real focus for me. The opposition is very Christian, traditional family oriented, afraid of losing, well I'm still not sure what they will lose. Afraid that their keiki will learn the nasty truth that gay people are real. They are convinced that they deserve the right to judge us, ect.,ect. The testimony in support of SB1 included some Christians, focused on family, focused on equality, and overflowed with the Real Pain of suppression, exclusion, financial loss, bullying, actual life threats. Real Pain and suffering because we are not accepted by a group of society. Bottom line just seems so obvious. That the suffering of the LGBT community is far greater and unfair than the suffering of the opposition, and that SB1 needs to pass for the sake of human dignity.

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: PHILLIPPE GALICINAO
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Pfgalici@hawaii.edu

RE: SB 1
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From: Nathalie Sowers
Honolulu, HI 96815
afd.office@yahoo.com

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From: Shirley Tamashiro
Kaneohe, HI 96744
shirley.aiko@gmail.com

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From: Pamela Berry
Mililani, HI 96789
psberry1967@gmail.com

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From: Shayne Tavares
Pearl City, HI 96782
shayne.tavares@gmail.com

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shayne.tavares@gmail.com

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From: Lisa Welter
Kihei, HI 96753
lmwelter@ME.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: ALAN HUIE
Honolulu, HI 96815
alanhuie@sbcglobal.net

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 writing to urge your support of SB 1. I am the owner of the landmark Crouching Lion restaurant and property in Windward Oahu. I employ over 30 employees. Our restaurant serves thousands of customers each year. My partner and I have a three year old daughter born in Hawaii. To secure her future and to gain the legal recognition of our family, marriage equality must become law. Our Aloha Spirit and our concept of Ohana are incomplete without passage of SB1. The constitutional rights of any disenfranchised group should not be subjected to a vote! For those who object to same sex marriages, they are free not to practice it. To those like us who have a real stake in the matter, we will fully embrace marriage equality with the responsibilities and benefits inherent in marriage. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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: Brenda Cloutier
Hilo, HI 96720
blcloutier@yahoo.com

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. This issue is the last bastion of inequality in our country and in our state and to do anything other than full equality is in violation of our First Amendment rights and responsibilities. Even our federal government has gone as far as to accept all legally married for tax and other social program benefits. Even the military has accepted marriage equality. Does this violate the rights of someone who believes this is a sin? Does racial equality violate the rights of those who are racially prejudiced, even those who believe their racial hate is supported by their holy book? We're not talking about one brand of morality. We're talking human rights. Hate and hate speech are not constitutional rights. Religious books and holy books have been used to perpetuate great hate on humankind who don't act or believe as "we" do. It's time to ignore the excuses for fear-induced hate. It's time to stop the prejudicial inequality. I have evolved greatly in my attitudes toward social reform, from being raised one of Jehovah's Witnesses, to believing it is not my right or responsibility to legislate any brand or morality at a government level. In fact, the government needs to take the lead in this and legalize it before many people will even begin to accept the concept of two people who love each other being allowed the same rights as current married couples enjoy. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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lmwelter@ME.com

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From: Robert Guzman, MPH
Pahoa, HI 96778
robguz4@me.com

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 have worked in the Public Health field for over 20 years, with a focus on LGBT youth and HIV. Professionally, I am two degrees of separation from the President. I was mentored and supervised for 10 years and authored several articles in scientific journals such as Clinical Infectious Diseases and American Journal of Public Health with the man who Obama chose for the highest appointed HIV position in the country--the Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy. Despite my professional accomplishments and service to the public, as a gay man in Hawaii I cannot marry my partner and have it be recognized by the State of Hawaii. I've continued my work in HIV in Hawaii, now primarily working with heterosexual men in substance abuse treatment, many who are recently out of prison. While I conduct my work from a position of non-judgment, I am aware that these are men who have committed crimes including rape, domestic violence, and sexual abuse of minors. These men have legal recognition of their marriages, while currently, I would not have such recognition in Hawaii if I were to choose to marry my male partner. I am only asking for equal protection under the law and the same freedom to marry that these heterosexual men have. Without full marriage equality, the message to young LGBT people continues to be that they are inferior, and that their love of their partners does not count. I know from research that this indeed affects self-esteem and contributes to these young people engaging in harmful behaviors such as substance abuse, and leaving school and their homes when they do not feel supported. Passage of SB 1 will be a huge step in supporting LGBT youth in Hawaii.

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From: Bradley Rentz
Honolulu, HI 96848
bradley.rentz@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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From: Valerie Smalley
Honolulu, HI 96826
cherub42004@msn.com

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From: Keli Brown
Wailuku, HI 96793
mauikelii@gmail.com

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From: Anthony Alvarado
Honolulu, HI 96815
aalvarado_232@hotmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Stephen Holmes
Honolulu, HI 96825
holmes001@me.com

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. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. I have not heard a single sensible argument against it, and if the government is going to deny good, law-abiding citizens ANYTHING it needs to have a good reason for doing so. "Letting the people vote" is not a reason, nor is "defending the sanctity of marriage". Marriage and freedom of association are fundamental rights and the idea of letting them be granted or taken away by the vote of a majority is antithetical to the principles of democracy. I am writing to you today to express my strong support for SB 1 and to urge you to pass this bill as quickly as possible. Marriage is a fundamental right and should not be subject to the whims of a majority vote. The freedom of association is also a fundamental right and should not be subject to the whims of a majority vote. The government has no business dictating to whom we can marry or with whom we can associate. It is time to get off the moral high ground and get on with the business of governing. Please pass SB 1 and let the people of Hawaii decide for themselves what is best for their families and their state. Thank you for your service to the people of Hawaii.

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW IS LOVE, not the HATE that the anti-gay bigots promote in the name of Jesus and Christianity. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as

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From: Jan Davis
Waialua, HI 96791
jandavis@me.com

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From: Debra Mark
Honolulu, HI 96816
markd004@hawaii.rr.com

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

From: Lahela Bailey
Hilo, HI 96720
mslahela@gmail.com

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 not gay, I do not have gay relatives, I have no gay agenda. However; I believe in equal rights. 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: Kristen Nemoto
Waimanalo, HI 96795
krissynemoto@yahoo.com

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. This is not just about marriage. This is not about benefits. This is not about allowing "people" their right to decide for themselves or health insurance or social security or "confusing" the definition of a "family." This is about civil rights. It's about denying someone a right because they are "this" and not "that." It's about hatred, bigotry and ignorance which sadly is the same malicious manner that thousands so violently voiced 50 years ago. This bill, shall it pass, will not only shun those who are blinded by fear but will spread a message that discrimination is not a place for the state of Hawai'i and will hopefully inspire other leaders to do the same. As representatives of our beautiful island, I hope you will represent our state with bravery and conviction for those who cannot and do not have that same luxury. Thank you for your time. Kristen Nemoto Waimanalo, HI

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: Robert Roll
Mountain View, HI 96771
robert@alohamexico.com

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. We would like to offer you our perspective on your consideration to again allowing Hawai'i to legally recognize same sex marriage and allow the the State of Hawai'i to again begin issuing marriage licenses. We, Robert Roll and Raphael Moller were married in Brookline Massachusetts in 2009, Robert's hometown, with Robert's parent's by our side. This was after we were denied a marriage license by the San Francisco County clerk a week after Prop 8 passed in California where we were living at the time. This was sad and frustrating since many of our friend's who are same sex couples, had been issued marriage licenses, which had become invalid after Proposition 8 passed in California. We moved to Hawai'i in 2012 and soon after we moved learned Robert's dad was diagnosed with Leukemia. We have been living in Brookline Mass since late 2012 where we helped our dad through his illness and the process of dying and then helped my mom who also fell ill, but is doing fine now. This is not unlike any other married couple who has to share the responsibility to care for aging parents. It has been an honor to live in Massachusetts and to have our marriage both legally and socially recognized by the citizens of Massachusetts. More recently with the overturning of the Defense of Marriage act we received recognition of our marriage and received all of the same rights and benefits as any other married couple on a Federal level. For example, the benefits we would have been denied if one of us passed away would be lengthy. This was evident after my dad passed away relating to Social Security, pension, supplemental medical, the ease of assets passing outside of probate, stepped up valuation of Robert's parents home, and Veteran's benefits. We will return to our home in Hawai'i in January 2014. It feels odd that if the ban on same sex marriage is not repealed that the moment we step off the plane we will no longer be legally married. This is something that no heterosexual couple experiences when they travel anywhere in the entire world. We understand that some people are against same sex marriage because of religious and social beliefs and nobody should be forced to perform a religious marriage service. However, historically churches began performing marriages and eventually governments began recognizing marriages and issuing licenses to acknowledge the marriage. So the question you must debate is it fair or legal to deny any group of fellow United States citizens in Hawai'i the same benefits that they have in other states or countries just because they are committed and love a spouse, just as you love your

spouse? One of the questions that Massachusetts legislators had to debate in the past was whether same-sex marriage would be detrimental to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts when deciding on a constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage in Massachusetts. Many legislators who were against the idea of same sex marriage publicly said that they could not vote for the amendment because they could not find any negative effect that the amendment would have within Massachusetts. They added that their oath of office did not allow them to vote on a matter based on religious or personal beliefs, but only what was good for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We hope that you will consider our perspective when debating and voting on this important issue. In reality this is really about the love for another person and for Hawai'i that embodies the true spirit of A

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From: Michael Oliver
Kihei, HI 96753
m.oliver96753@lycos.com

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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. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Ramona Hussey
Honolulu, HI 96816
ramona@lava.net

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: Hope Busto-Keyes
Wailuku, HI 96793
hbustokeyes@yahoo.com

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

Testimony for Committee on Judiciary and Finance SB 1 Monday, October 31, 2013 10:00 a.m. I will not be present for testimony. Representative Rhoads, Chair Representative Luke, Chair Honorable Committee Members I am writing in support of equal rights for persons of the same sex who choose to marry. The contract of marriage - with rights, benefits, responsibilities and protections - is a legal contract that is blind to the sexes of those being married. History is full of examples of discrimination regarding 'marriage,' i.e. when it was illegal for non-whites and whites to marry. Denying the equal rights of 'marriage' to same-sex couples would be blatant discrimination, again. Hawai'i is beyond that and can exhibit the will to recognize equal rights for marriage between persons of the same sex. Justice will be served when you vote 'yes' for equal rights for all who marry in Hawai'i. Mahalo for your consideration, Hope Busto-Keyes 67 Uaha'a Place Wailuku, HI 96793 808-633-3196 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: Vicky Campbell
Waianae, HI 96792
vcampbellpipes@aol.com

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: Kuliaikanu'u Petzoldt
Kailua, HI 96734
tkpetzoldt@me.com

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: Catherine Clement
Kilauea, HI 96754
cateclement@gmail.com

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 heterosexual and so are my 3 adult children, but several members of my ohana are gay and lesbian, and they deserve the right to marry who they love. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. The government SHOULD be in the business of protecting and guaranteeing marriage quality. The government SHOULD be in the business of helping Hawai'i's economy by inviting those who are discriminated against elsewhere to travel and relocate here, the land of aloha for all. 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: Kori Lyons
Honolulu, HI 96817
klyons@punahou.edu

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. I am a civics teacher, who has a firm belief in the democratic ideals of our nation, as well as an appreciation for the political heritage of our forbearers --- we must move forward in mindfulness of these ideals. I want my young children to grow up here in Hawaii where the democratic ideals are most firmly rooted in the very building block of democracy, the family -- and EVERYONE's family enjoys the legal protections of our laws -- that we are ruled by just and fair laws that provide protection, and not spread hate and inequality. 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: nirmaliz pena
honolulu, HI 96814
npena2003@gmail.com

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: Doug Rigg
Honolulu, HI 96822
dougierigg@yahoo.com

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.

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From: CHASTEL Serge
Honolulu, HI 96816
schastel.at.work@gmail.com

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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: Valentina Watson
Lahaina, HI 96761
vsw@westmauilaw.com

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: Jayson O'Donnell
Honolulu, HI 96815
jayson@lennodo.us

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

From: Stephanie Rodrigues
Pearl City, HI 96782
srodrigues73@yahoo.com

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.

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jerrine Madayag Calantoc
Honolulu, HI 96813
coco5chanel1@yahoo.com

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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: matt yee
pearl city, HI 96782
mattyee2011@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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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: Leanne Hachey
Kaneohe, HI 96744
leanne@op-hawaii.com

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. We've seen many people come to the realization that marriage equality for all Hawaii residents is the right thing to do. People such as Mark Takai and Tulsi Gabbard have realized that discriminating against others based on gender, religion or ethnicity is wrong especially in a country that espouses justice and liberty for all. I ask you all to think about it for a moment and put yourself in my place. To consider how fair is it that I pay my taxes as an individual, a homeowner, and a business owner and yet I don't get the same benefits that every other married citizen of Hawaii gets. They receive benefits above and beyond what I get simply because of who I love and want to spend my life with. My partner and I are going on in our fourteenth year together and were engaged in New York City, a place that we could legally be married but not where we choose to marry. My partner was born and raised here on Oahu and would love to be married here however this is still not an option for us. I truly believe that the majority of Hawaii residents are full of love and aloha and believe we should not be discriminated against. This gives me hope for my future in Hawaii, and to know that people like the students of the University of Hawaii gathered in support of marriage equality is very moving. They have nothing to gain by that gesture except to know that they didn't stay silent while others were oppressed and treated as second class citizens. I ask you once again to consider what it would be like if you too could not marry the person that you loved simply because of your gender, religion or ethnicity. Please decide in favor of equality for all. With aloha, Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Leanne Hachey

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: Cara Mazzei
Honolulu, HI 96816
caramazzei@yahoo.com

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

From: Misaki Takabayashi
Kurtistown, HI 96760
misakita@hawaii.edu

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 clear from the testimonies and opinions we have heard on both sides so far that everyone is wanting to make sure everyone's rights are protected. Passage of this bill will mean so much more than same-sex marriage. It will send a firm message that Hawaii is committed to protecting everyone's basic rights. I am a professor at UH-Hilo. I have a class policy that everyone is entitled to an opinion but must respect the fact that everyone else is entitled to their opinions. The premise there is that everyone is entitled to the same set of rights to begin with. Let's set the foundation in the state to a place where all residents have the same set of rights. Then let's discuss the differences of opinions and how we live with those differences as a community. Realization of marriage equality is a good start to get there. 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: Jenifer Jenkins
Honolulu, HI 96822
jjenifer1@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Phyllis Ea
Kapolei, HI 96707
eap752@gmail.com

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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: Cheryl Reeser
Makawao, HI 96768
joelypop@gmail.com

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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Barry Kwock
Honolulu, HI 96816
bjkwock@yahoo.com

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

From: Mike Hartley
Honolulu, HI 96815
mhartley03@msn.com

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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: brandon goode
mililani, HI 96789
brandoncgoode@yahoo.com

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. Who someone loves has no effect on me and who I love has no effect on them. I am a straight man and support HUMAN RIGHTS. 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: Michelle Yamashita
Kalaheo, HI 96741
mac.yamashita@gmail.com

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 name is Michelle Yamashita and my partner Mahealani Yamashita are both Veterans. I have served four tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. I am devastated to think about how hard I fought for freedom for my country, and how my own family has been impacted by not being equally recognized with the same rights and privileges of heterosexual couples. Our son Mauna Kea Yamashita was born 10 months ago and although I am on his birth certificate because of our Civil Union, I still can not claim him on my VA and Navy Retirement benefits because Mahea and do not have Marriage equality. This is heart breaking for me and frustrating. I'm writing today to urge you to please support a special session to ensure swift passage of marriage equality in Hawaii so my Ohana can stand equally with our peers. 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: Jeffry Priela
Aiea, HI 96701
jpriela@outserve.org

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.

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: Karen Valasek
Aiea, HI 96701
valasek.karen@gmail.com

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: Susan Gouveia
Haiku, HI 96708
doozinberry2045q@yahoo.com

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: John P Gaidos
Honolulu, HI 96825
Teazers@hawaii.rr.com

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 have been with my same sex partner for 31 years now and am asking that you please consider equal rights for all. It's what we deserve and everything that goes along with it. We are not stepping on anyone's toes but feel we truly deserve equal rights to be the same as everyone else. We are both people of god and have raised several children with us and to no harm whatsoever. None of them turned out gay either. The suicide rates are the highest with gay youth in America from all this bigotry and need acceptance. It's time we end all this hate and bigotry here in our aloha state. **THERE IS NO FREEDOM UNTIL WE ARE ALL EQUAL!** Mahalo and Aloha for your time and consideration ! Please grant us our equality in this land of aloha!

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: Anstern Gouveia
Haiku, HI 96708
8alcarin8@gmail.com

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: Joleen Pesquira
Kapolei, HI 96707
joleen_pesquira@yahoo.com

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. This will affect me personally, as I hope to marry my partner of the same-sex one day. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. I have tried to be open-minded and hear the opposing arguments, but I have yet to hear one logical reason why this bill shouldn't be passed. I understand that people still have a hard time accepting what's different, but there is no consequence to those who not believe in same-sex marriage if this bill is passed. Rather, the damage falls to people like me. So I trust that you have the best interest of the Island and its people in mind. Please do the right thing and ensure same-sex couples are treated equally. 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: Wyatt Gouveia
Haiku, HI 96708
musicislifeforme@yahoo.com

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

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Cha Smith
Honolulu, HI 96816
conch@hawaii.rr.com

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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: Chelsey Stewart
Kaneohe, HI 96744
cstewart24@gmail.com

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: Douglas Jones
Haiku, HI 96708
pacificoisland@aol.com

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

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From: keala pacheco
kaneohe, HI 96744
kealapacheco@gmail.com

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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: Judie Hoepfner
Kapaa, HI 96746
judie@aloha.net

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: Donald Kyles
Kapolei, HI 96707
dkyles@gmail.com

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: Tiare Sua
Wailuku, HI 96793
Tiare@mauiids.org

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: Kevin Yates
Kihei, HI 96753
Muddygardener@hotmail.com

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

From: Iskandar Rabeendran
Honolulu, HI 96813
kakaye@gmail.com

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 love gays. If you don't pass this bill, I threaten to stop acting like one. mahalo z iska

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 DiMestico
Kihei, HI 96753
rwdhi@msn.com

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

From: Ashlie DeCambra
Ocean View, HI 96737
ashlie@hawaii.edu

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: Richard Andrews, M.D.
Kihei, HI 96753
RicAndrews@hawaii.rr.com

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: Jonathan Rafflesberger
Honolulu, HI 96822
Jonathan.raffesberger@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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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: Fenina Buttler
Honolulu, HI 96822
sirrahfen@yahoo.com

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 wholeheartedly support SB1! The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Susan Floyd
Volcano, HI 96785
sfloyd@aloha.net

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: Jocelyn de Guia
Honolulu, HI 96816
jocedg@gmail.com

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 and I have been together in a loving and committed relationship for 6 years. We are good hardworking citizens committed to public service. She is a social worker and I am a state government worker. We should be afforded the rights of everyone else. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. Opponents are calling for a general vote on this issue but if our government let the people vote on issues of racial segregation, interracial marriage, or even indigenous rights in the past, all of those minority groups would have lost their rights. We as a society has prospered greatly when we have been inclusive of all peoples. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families and show everyone our true spirit of aloha. 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: Phillip Arnold
Honolulu, HI 96830
parnold@hawaiiantel.net

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, and should never be put to a vote by the populace. My partner and I will have been together for 35 years this Nov 9th, and we are looking forward to you passing SB1 as an affirmation that we can once and for all be married to each other and receive all the 1001 benefits that are currently denied us. Gay and lesbian couples want to get married for similar reasons as everyone else ☐ to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment fidelity to the person they l

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: John Herberger
Kula, HI 96790
manaaloha@aol.com

RE: SB 1
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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: Christopher Santos
Honolulu, HI 96816
Chris826hnl@aol.com

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: Phil Stromberg
Honolulu, HI 96816
philonreef@aol.com

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. Because my love of 18years deserves the same respect as anyone else. I have waited long enough to be able to say I do to the Man I love.

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: Kendall Raina Whiting
Honolulu, HI 96814
krainaw@gmail.com

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: Vince Ng
Kahului, HI 96732
vkwn75@yahoo.com

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

From: Anders Kose Nervold
Honolulu, HI 96815
anervold@my.hpu.edu

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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: Monique Chyba
Honolulu, HI 96813
mchyba@gmail.com

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 husband love gays. This is to provide you with a status update on his earlier threat. He wishes to rescind/update it with an elevated one: If you don't pass this bill, he will continue to act gay EVEN MORE than ever before. Please help me help him help us, our daughter Mandarine might need her pink backpack back one day. #GettingWorried monique

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: Bobbie Jo Curley
Kihei, HI 96753
bobbie@hipnautical.com

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: Rebecca Cheung
Waipahu, HI 96797
becca.cheung@yahoo.com

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From: Jill Sur
Kailua, HI 96734
jill_sur@yahoo.com

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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
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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: Desiree Espinda
Waipahu, HI 96797
desiree.espinda@yahoo.com

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

From: Richard Velasquez
Honolulu, HI 96812
rsv314@aol.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jaclyn Kim
Honolulu, HI 96821
kanilehua@gmail.com

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.

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

From: Michele Nagamine
Honolulu, HI 96825
pooks005@yahoo.com

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. This is not an issue of sexuality. This is an issue of fairness and equality! In Hawaii, we are raised and taught to be accepting of everyone - regardless of race, gender or sexuality. Our islands are a melting pot of colors and cultures and we feel safe here. Living with the Aloha Spirit is what makes Hawaii such a special place. 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: Nina Davis
Honolulu, HI 96825
ninadavis204@gmail.com

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: Fenton Yap
Wailuku, HI 96793
kekoa@msn.com

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

From: Melanie Holt
Kamuela, HI 96743
melholt@hawaiiantel.net

RE: SB 1
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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: Venecia Cruz
Honolulu, HI 96826
venecia.cruz@gmail.com

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

Dear Human Being, As a human it is part of life to love and be loved. We are hard wired for connection. If we are so lucky to find that other person that gets us and loves us unconditionally then who are you to deny them their human rights? The world is full of hate, but also full of love and acceptance. The LGBT community and couples will continue to love each other regardless of your decision; but allow them the same rights as a heterosexual couple. Allow them to visit their loved one of 20 years in the hospital, allow them the right to call one another husband or wife, allow them what they should already have the access to... They are human and so are you, we are more the same than different. Choose love.

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: Richard Goldman
Paauilo, HI 96776
rsgold@gmail.com

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. I've been married for 37 years now, and was living in Massachusetts when gays and lesbians were granted the right to be married. Nobody's life was adversely effected by the change. No existing marriages were destroyed, as predicted by some people. The sun came up, and life went on. What did change was that gays and lesbians in committed relationships were able to see their partnerships legally recognized, and they were now entitled to the rights and benefits that other families enjoyed. We see the persecution of gays and lesbians in other countries, and we know in our hearts that we are better than that. Human and civil rights are Not something that are determined by a vote, where a majority can restrict the rights of a minority. It is time for Hawaii to step up and protect the rights and dignity of all it's citizens. Please pass the legislation that will correct the injustices of the past. 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: David Gardner
Lahaina, HI 96761
Dbg1111@gmail.com

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

From: Cody Moniz
Honolulu, HI 96813
cmoniz@hawaii.edu

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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: Paul Kraselsky
Koloa, HI 96756
gipk@comcast.net

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Tiffany Dalida
WAIPAHU, HI 96797
hilineautodetail@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Brandy Domingo
Mililani, HI 96789
tknbld1@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Malia Nishijima
Mililani, HI 96789
malialn@hawaii.edu

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Debra zeleznik
Honolulu, HI 96813
debz@rubberstampplantation.com

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. Marriage is for white folks only! Does that make your stomach turn? It should! Why? Because it is not right. Discrimination is discrimination, and is not pono! It's simple and basic. Marriage is for all. Period. Please pass this bill. 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
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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Tekla Weber
Kailua, HI 96734
Teklaweber@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Daniel Skomp
Kea'au, HI 96749
punanurse@yahoo.com

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

From: Qiao Hua Phu
Honolulu, HI 96819
huaqph@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Suzi Ng
honolulu, HI 96817
Stochastically.yours@gmail.com

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. Love is love, and there shouldn't be differences because of sexual orientation. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Stacy Lee
Honolulu, HI 96814
soseki2@yahoo.com

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: Brian Grieves
Honolulu, HI 96825
grievesbrian@gmail.com

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

Testimony to the Hawaii State Legislature I am delighted to submit testimony to the esteemed members of the House Judiciary and Labor committees. I write as an Episcopal priest in the diocese of Hawaii who has always believed that God acts in history today as God has always acted in every generation for those with open hearts to hear what God is saying to us in the present moment. Today, you have a chance to join with the majority of our citizens in supporting marriage equality of same gender couples. We have been responding to God's call to abandon past practices which led us astray into such horrific practices as slavery where men and women were thought to be of a lower form of human being based on skin color in order to justify their being sold as commodities for labor, and the subjugation of women, where women were literally treated as possessions, to be passed on to one family from another, without equality among men. For centuries, Christians blindly condoned these now commonly recognized injustices of history. And we are now able once again to see God working something new among us, where a centuries' old prejudice against people of homosexual orientation can finally be overcome, and this minority group can be allowed the same access to legitimate relationships of affection through the right of marriage. I am saddened by the minority group of fellow Christians who argue that marriage between same gender citizens is condemned by Scripture. We have made this mistake before on the issues of slavery and women. And we are making that mistake again. In discussion with those in my community who rabidly oppose marriage equality, I have come to realize that they can never bring good news to those gay and lesbian members who attend those churches. There really can be no separation between "trying to love the sinner, but not the sin." In the end, these judgmental congregations will have to choose between fully embracing with acceptance these children of God or rejecting them and no longer welcoming them into their midst. Right now gays and lesbians in those congregations are subjected to a life of purgatory, and that treatment is not of God. The misuse of Scripture, which is about God's reconciling love for all people, is a tragedy that causes immense heartache and suffering. One example will suffice. While Leviticus condemns homosexuality it also condemns eating sh 汶碎獾匠活瑁浩獾眠慨嗽璵湮整刈敲⁴挪械瑰牵湮挠湯整瑛濶淺黠獲摺擊璵慨⁴桷獅愠灰楛擗璵桴敌窠整湮愠捌獾摺璵泮汨敬湮啜獾渠譬狹斂桴瀟杵敌⁷淺黠獲摺擊湮環愠潢璵集泚濶狹砒慵楛滅愠擊璵敌吐散

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

From: Sheri Stein-Hill
Lahaina, HI 96761
sherimaui@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Ashley Rosenfeld
Honolulu, HI 96825
ashleyrr@hawaii.edu

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: James Lee
Kihei, HI 96753
JamesJaewhanLee@yahoo.com

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 and urge you to pass this important civil rights legislation. I have had the honor to live in Maui for the last 11 and a half years with my same sex partner of 20 years. We work, pay taxes, contribute to the community and respect the health of the aina and all its people even people with whom we disagree. But, I would never try to restrict someone's right to live their lives freely under the law as some in the religious community want to continue to do to gays and lesbians. I was born to Korean immigrants in San Francisco in 1962 in a time when it was still illegal in some states for people of different national backgrounds to marry. When I came out to my parents as a gay man when I was still a student at Stanford University they were initially shocked but not two weeks after they invited me and my then boyfriend to dinner...recognizing that I was still their beloved son. Though at heart I don't feel the need for my loving relationship to be validated by any external authority I do believe that all people should be treated equally and fairly under the law. Currently opposite sex couples enjoy protections, rights and benefits that are denied to same sex couples. This is not pono. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else - to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In 1998 Hawaii had the opportunity to become the first state to recognize that equal protection and treatment under the law meant that same sex couples should be allowed to marry. Let us now catch up with so many in the world who have overcome their fear and prejudices to comprehend that homosexuals are our family! Even the largely Catholic country of Spain has grown past its fears of homosexuals. Let's not continue to turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana - gay or straight - should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love and, no religious organization should be allowed to have their beliefs trample the rights of others. We live in a country born out of the battles to separate church and state. Civil rights and marriage recognized by a civil authority have nothing to do with the freedom to practice the religion of ones choice. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.
Malama pono, James Jaewhan Lee Born April 13, 1962 in San Francisco Resident of Kihei,

Maui, Hawaii since May 2002. Tax payer, law abiding, contributor to the health of the community and responsible and caring citizen of Hawai'i, the United States and the World.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
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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: Chasity Cadaoas
Wailuku, HI 96793
chasityc@hawaii.edu

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From: Paul Yap
Lahaina, HI 96761
demigod630@msn.com

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From: Brigitte Hahn-Miller
Honolulu, HI 96821
millerbhm@hawaii.rr.com

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From: Ashley Kinoshita
Honolulu, HI 97822
ahkinosh@hawaii.edu

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From: Jackie Crowther
Honolulu, HI 96820
freejack2006@msn.com

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From: Marko Merva
Lahaina, HI 96761
Merva64@hotmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jeffrey Yoshida
Honolulu, HI 96816
jeffreyyoshida@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Amanda Schaefer
Haiku, HI 96708
amandals@hawaii.edu

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 stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that, "(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. (2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. (3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State." Marriage is not defined as a human right between one man and one woman. It is defined as something that men and women, who are of age and consent, may marry. It also identifies the importance of family, but does not define family. However, the family is "entitled to protection by society and the State." Let the "State" of Hawai'i protect families by supporting SB1 and marriage equality, so that all families receive equal protection. I am a 28 year old University of Hawai'i student who wishes to see all people granted their basic human rights. In fact, I have made the study of human rights a major part of my degree because of their importance. Please keep them in mind when you make this important decision. International consensus on these basic human rights has already identified the path and await your implementation. 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: Lynn South
Makawao, HI 96768
crissouth1@gmail.com

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 63 years old, about to be ordained in the Episcopal church this weekend, and have been with my partner for over 18 years. We deserve the same civil rights and legal protections as everyone else. Churches will - and are - sorting out their responses to this. No church has ever been required to perform a marriage for ANY person. It has always been the choice of the church. Now is no different. Those of us committed to this will work from the inside. What we ask for right now are legal, civil rights granted to every other American. Please do the right thing. I grew up in the South during the civil rights era, if left to the people, black people would have not gotten the right to vote and inter-racial marriages would have remained unlawful for many years longer. Hawaii has been "discussing" this issue for 20 years. long enough. My marriage will not dismantle the marriage of anyone else. Please do the right thing. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana - gay or straight - should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Lucas Morgan
Honolulu, HI 96825
lucas.morgan@gmail.com

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From: summer lee-vith
mililani, HI 96789
mrsjedi808@yahoo.com

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From: Nagel Flores
Honolulu, HI 96819
nagelflrs@gmail.com

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From: Sheila Fried
Kihei, HI 96753
beautte@hawaiiantel.net

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From: Nancy Sherman
Lahaina, HI 96761
nancysherman@hawaii.rr.com

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From: JULIE WASSEL
HONOLULU, HI 96825
WATERCRAZY70@YAHOO.COM

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From: Teresa Blackwell
Kihei, HI 96753
Teresabsbills@gmail.com

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From: Julie Mitchell
Kurtistown, HI 96760
Julesmitch@yahoo.com

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Julesmitch@yahoo.com

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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. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Linda Rich
Honolulu, HI 96815
richl001@hawaii.rr.com

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. You should not be swayed by religious arguments. The state is NOT there to legislate religion, but to ensure civil rights for all. Churches that object will still have the freedom to decline performing same sex marriages, but they should not have the right to deny LGBT couples people the right to marry. My church would be happy to officiate at their weddings. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian 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.

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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

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richl001@hawaii.rr.com

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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: Nancy Aleck
Honolulu, HI 96839
NAleck@hawaii.rr.com

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. Equality is a concept that has yet to be put fully into practice or policy. Civil rights cannot and should not be determined by a general voting populous, many of whom are bitterly bigoted and have yet to ripen the concept of equality in their hearts. Nor should the government be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. This was done in the past with people of different races. The case that changed law was over 45 years ago. This is what one of the plaintiffs, Mildred Loving, said in 2007 on the 40th anniversary of the landmark civil rights decision of the US Supreme Court that invalidated laws prohibiting interracial marriage: "I believe all Americans, no matter their race, no matter their sex, no matter their sexual orientation, should have that same freedom to marry...I am proud that ...my name is on a court case that can help reinforce the love, the commitment, the fairness and the family that so many people... seek in life. I support the freedom to marry for all. That's what Loving, and loving, are all about." Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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: Roanne Kaopua
Hilo, HI 96720
busover@live.com

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: Anne Lorenzo
Honolulu, HI 96706
trjanne@yahoo.com

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: peter whiticar
honolulu, HI 96815
whiticar@lava.net

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 married father of two children and I know the joys and intense realities of marriage and family. It is a right for all people to choose their partner and the bond of marriage. I feel this need for equality deep in my bones and my heart. GLBT are our brothers and sisters and an undeniable full part of our community. They deserve all the rights of full members of our communities. Marriage equality will make us all stronger and our families proud and happy. Let the light shine in. Please support SB1. aloha Peter Whiticar 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 Bourg
Honolulu, HI 96826
melissa@natorilaw.com

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: Brandon Boi
Honolulu, HI 96816
brandon80828@hotmail.com

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. Please give gay couples the same rights. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you.

Dear Chair Rhoad

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

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brandon80828@hotmail.com

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

From: Peter Lee
Honolulu, HI 96816
pekohi@aol.com

RE: SB 1
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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: Stephen Sussman
Haiku, HI 96708
sussbusiness2@hawaii.rr.com

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: W.K. A.
Waipahu, HI 96797
lat22long157@yahoo.com

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 also writing to tell you about my family. I have homosexual and transgender cousins in decades-long, monogamous relationships with their beloveds. My family loves their partners & consider them family. These couples would love to express their love for one another through marriage. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
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From: Brandon Boi
Honolulu, HI 96816
brandon80828@hotmail.com

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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: Pearl Rockett
Wailuku, HI 96793
prockett@hawaii.rr.com

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: lynne matusow
honolulu, HI 96817
lynnehi@aol.com

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. They get married in 14 states, Washington, D.C., and countries around the globe. They get married in Catholic nations, including Pope Francis' native land of Argentina. Hawaii is behind the times. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. This is your decision. Not a plebiscite. If decisions were made by popular vote interracial marriage would still not be legal in many states. Not passing SB 1 would be sexual profiling, just like disallowing interracial marriage would be racial profiling. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. The government should not be denying federal benefits to some, which will happen if this bill is not passed. The government should not tell people to fly out of state at great expense to get married. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.
Lynne Matusow 60 N. Beretania, #1804 Honolulu, HI 96817 808 531-4260
lynnehi@aol.com

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: Kathryn Launert
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Kateofcatehall@gmail.com

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 grew up on Maui and though I traveled, I waited until I could move back to Hawaii before I began my own family. To me Hawaii is one of the few places where my children can grow up as part of a community that is more like family. I know that here at home they will be loved and accepted whatever their background. Here in Hawaii their Ohana is not just their immediate family but their friends and neighbors who share the islands. This is why I believe it is important for Hawaii to not just be another state that approves marriage equality, but we should be a leader in civil rights and basic freedoms for everyone. Marriage is indeed just a starting point. It is a starting point and foundation for strong families, strong communities, and happy, healthy children who will grow to become leaders in the future. To take a vow promising to face all life hardships with the person you love is a brave and serious thing. Anyone who is willing to invest themselves to it deserves support and recognition. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.
Kathryn Launert

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: Jocelyn Fujii
Honolulu, HI 96822
jocelyn.fujii@hawaiiantel.net

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, We are now given one more opportunity to prove that Hawai'i is a state of inclusion and diversity, a place where cultures converge and 'ohana is a defining legacy. I believe that our right to marry the person of our choice is absolute, beyond the purview of government and religion, and that society's duty is to encourage, rather than deny, loving relationships whether straight or gay. I'm thankful that gays and lesbians want the right to enter into such a flawed institution as marriage. To give them the freedom to marry would remove one more barrier for them and would enhance our society beyond measure. I think that all freedom-loving people who believe in justice and humanity, all of us, would be elevated by the passage of this bill simply because it elevates our humanity. I also believe that legalizing same-sex marriage would save lives. How many of us know of suicides that have shattered families, suicides that could have been prevented if only the closeted teenager had felt acceptance instead of fear, love instead of shame, a sense of belonging instead of alienation? Marriage equality would be one less barrier for them, one concrete sign that they are included and valued, and that the right to happiness belongs to everyone, not just to those who fit the biblical definition of traditional marriage. Every gay and lesbian person I know who is raising children is an exceptional parent, having had to prove themselves by higher, stricter-than-usual standards and screening in the areas of emotional, socio-economic and financial stability. Their children are growing up in stable and loving families. As a heterosexual married woman who is childless by choice, I have nothing but admiration for those who, facing greater barriers than I, place so much value on the freedom I have sometimes taken for granted. And, ultimately, it comes down to this: Why would anyone oppose someone else's marriage when it has nothing to do with them? I testified in favor of marriage equality 20 years ago. I never thought I would have to do it again, that the pursuit of justice for such a fundamental right would take so long. I saw how organized religion poured money into Hawai'i to deny a part of our community a basic right. Please don't let it happen again. For these and many other reasons, I strongly support SB1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Respectfully submitted, Jocelyn Fujii

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: lilian keliikoa
honolulu, HI 96813
llkeliikoa@gmail.com

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: Glen Miyasato
Honolulu, HI 96821
gmiyasato003@hawaii.rr.com

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

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I humbly ask for your support of SB 1. I was born and raised here in Hawaii and went through the school system and UH and served the children and families of Hawaii with dedication and aloha for 35 years as an educator and administrator. Still, throughout my life I have had to keep my personal life and sexual orientation hidden because my significant other for the past 20 years has been of the same gender as myself. I also have always known that my significant other is God's gift to me despite what some from the conservative religious right try to tell the public. I ask you to please help our community be released f

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: Kae Toguchi
Mililani, HI 96789
kaetog@gmail.com

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

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Frederika Bain
Honolulu, HI 96822
frederika13@hotmail.com

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: Shogo Miyagi
Honolulu, HI 94158
shogojohn@hotmail.com

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 have been born and raised and living in Hawaii for over 30 years. And I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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

From: Carq Rand
Honolulu, HI 96815
cara.rand@gmail.com

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 student at UH Manoa working on my Masters Degree in Social Work i believe the freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Camille Rockett
Honolulu, HI 96817
mariko.rockett@gmail.com

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'm a voter, born and raised on Maui and now a social worker and mother living on Oahu. I have always known people- my classmates in school on Maui, friends, 'ohana, colleagues and coworkers, who love individuals from the same sex. I have seen their struggles with "trying" to be "normal" and fighting what is natural to them. Those who wish to marry people they love that are the same sex are Hawaiian citizens, regular people who work hard, pay taxes, and are trying just like the rest of us to have the best life possible. Granting them basic rights is a MUST. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawai'i'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: Jason Youn
Honolulu, HI 96822
jaedoyoun@hotmail.com

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: Kit Yan
Honolulu, HI 96819
badasskit@gmail.com

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: Thomas Nissel
Honolulu, HI 96813
nisselt001@yahoo.com

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 and I are currently entitled to federal benefits from my military retirement -- as home owners here in Hawaii, we feel it is our right to benefit at the state level with these same benefits! The freedom to marry the person you

love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else -- to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana -- gay or straight -- should have to face shame bec

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: Greg Hansen
Haiku, HI 96708
mauigreg1@gmail.com

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: ROWENA IRELAND
Pepeekeo, HI 96783
angelrose96783@yahoo.com

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. There is only one type of LOVE no matter what sex you are. I am not gay, but I am a huge supporter. I don't see how this harms me or ANYONE I know. I am not an expert of what is written in the Bible but I do know I was told throughout my entire life that Gods loves me NO MATTER WHAT! I have family and friends who are and they are no different from me. They may be even better off, building a family and providing a great home. NO DIFFERENCE!

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: Kathleen Dahill
Kapaa, HI 96746
kdahill56@gmail.com

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

Aloha, Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, and members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, When our heart decides that there is a person whom we will cherish unto death, we choose this person not because of their physical appearance, but because of a spiritual connection that we can't explain. To love and to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. We, as human beings, not merely sexual beings, created by Akua, have the right to make a commitment and fidelity to the person we love, regardless of gender. Please support SB1 and pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's ohanas. Mahalo 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: Emi Kaimuloa
Kaneohe, HI 96744
ekaimuloa@wik.com

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: Richard Taylor
Honolulu, HI 96825
richardtaylor922@gmail.com

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: Abby Wilkinson
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860
bbwilkinson6@gmail.com

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

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<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10200453834327002&set=vb.1191036836&type=2&theater> 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: JAIME RIBAO
Wailuku, HI 96793
mauitropix7@yahoo.com

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, The story of us: We have been together for just about 15 years. We have raised one daughter who is 19 and are currently raising a son who is 15. We teach our children about God, love, compassion, healthy boundaries and respect. We own a home together, we have jobs and we pay bills and taxes. We have friends and family. We face adversity and trials in our daily lives, whether it be financial, how to raise our kids or who used the last roll of toilet paper. We buy groceries, cook and occasionally have take out. We both drive cars to and from work. We have volunteered in our community as soccer coaches and other roles. We love each other. We are human. We are both females. We deserve equality!!! I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as every one else ☺ to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment

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: Nicole Schubert
Honolulu, HI 96816
nicole.j.schubert@gmail.com

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 and I would like to be married in our home state- she was born and raised here- and start a family in Hawaii. We won't be able to start a family without tremendous hardships if SB 1 doesn't pass. Not only will our relationship continue to be looked down upon by society, but our child would have to live with his/her parents having an illegitimate marriage. As a Hawaii DOE teacher, I know firsthand how important it is to a child to have a respected family/home situation. If anything, pass SB 1 for the children of hundreds of gay couples who call Hawaii their home. My partner and I have already faced the repercussions of the federal tax system while being denied marriage rights. That right is just one of 1,200 rights we are not afforded without marriage. The arguments our opponents use are all Bible-based, not based on scientific or sociological facts. In our state and our country, arguments originating from Christian beliefs are not valid under the separation of church and state. It's unfortunate that so many Christians have decided to be so hateful towards so many loving individuals. I hope that you'll use common sense and a loving heart to see past this hate and vote YES on SB 1. 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: Michael Q Ceballos
Honolulu, HI 96813
Michaelqceballos@mac.com

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: Konstantine Xoinis
kailua, HI 96734
kpxoinis@gmail.com

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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Scott MacGowan
Honolulu, HI 96813
scottM@cbpacific.com

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

From: Liam Ball
Haiku, HI 96708
nalikotea@gmail.com

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

I am writing to support the marriage equality bill. I see this issue as one of taxpayer's rights. All tax paying couples should be treated equally under the law. Also since Jesus to my best understanding is not a US Citizen, can we leave him out of this debate? (Not that the King of Peace would ever support alienating a small disenfranchised group of decent loving citizens but I digress.) Much aloha from a tax paying Maui Mahu.

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: John Condrey
aiea, HI 96701
jcondrey@hawaii.rr.com

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.

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

From: June Asato
Mililani, HI 96789
jasato@hawaii.rr.com

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 an active community member in Mililani and find it hard to believe that all 3 elected house members from this community have not supported this concept or this bill and will be tracking their participation in doing the right thing. I want the whole house to be in the voting, so please move from committee. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. 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: Ross Uehara-Tilton
Mililani, HI 96789
Rossut@hawaii.edu

RE: SB 1
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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: Jayson O'Donnell
Honolulu, HI 96815
jayson@lennodo.us

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: peter Tierney
makawao, HI 96768
peter@spcamaui.org

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

Dear House Committees on Judiciary and Finance and Chairs My partner Peter Moskow and are in strong support of SB 1. While SB1 comes to late to make a huge difference in our dialy lives it is easy to imagine the positive impact marriage equality will have on the lives of young gay Hawaiians. As the granting of equal rights of women and non-whites was once debated and passed, your actions will allow all young people the same possibilty granted our native son Barrack Obama , to not only dream but become whatever their abilities allow. Lead the Way. Represent and allow our beautiful state to go forward proudly with aloha and equal rights for all or wait and be dragged kicking and screaming into the new century. Imua, Peter Tierney Makawao, HI

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: David Schlicher
Makawao, HI 96768
daveschlicher@gmail.com

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 David Schlicher, and I serve as the pastor of Makawao Union Church on Maui. I write in strong support of SB 1, though this letter reflects my views, and not those of the congregation I serve. Thank you for the chance to provide this testimony. Before moving to Maui, I had the honor of officiating at five same sex weddings in California during 2008. One was between two men who had been together for 26 years. I remember how moved they were to receive legal recognition for their long-standing commitment to each other. Another was between two women who were raising their infant daughter. It was a delight to marry her two mommies, and by doing so make available the protections that the state provides for families. All families face the same challenges in our day, no matter the gender of the parents. The tax advantages, parental rights, and inheritance rights support our families in the difficulties of these times. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. The Supreme Court has ruled that it is so fundamental that even incarcerated individuals cannot be denied it. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. I have heard some state representatives say that we should “let the people decide.” It sounds so very reasonable, and isn’t that the way democracy works? And yet, history shows time and again that the majority does not reliably defend minority rights. More importantly, we are bound by law and a constitution and it is inappropriate to put fundamental rights up for a vote. I would urge you therefore to oppose any constitutional amendment on this issue. I also urge caution in modifying the exemption for churches and religious institutions lest we codify discrimination. The current provisions in the civil unions law, to me, strike a delicate, but necessary balance. While no religious leader should ever be required to officiate at any wedding, churches that make money from hosting weddings should continue to be treated as public accommodations. Those churches that function as a wedding business should be open to all couples. 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: June Asato
Mililani, HI 96789
jasato@hawaii.rr.com

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 an active Mililani community volunteer and find it disturbing that our 3 elected representatives representing Mililani have not supported this basic idea. We are watching how they conduct their participation and are hoping that they will do the right thing. Please pass to full floor vote. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. 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: danielle burroughs
JBPPH, HI 96860
danib052092@gmail.com

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. This is important to me because my future wife and I are both military and even tho we can go to another state to get married but can't afford it with our daily living cost living here in Hawaii. But if something was to happen to one of us, we couldn't control what ones family does to one another body even tho we have been together 6years. Which isn't fair because to one another we are already married but just not on paper which doesn't phase me because we love each other but the state only sees us as roommates which isn't fair. But I know others who are just waiting to get married on November 18 here in Hawaii. A lot of military personnel plan on getting married here. It would help keep the money flow here in Hawaii if anything bring more money in from the military because of BAH, it would help the housing market here in Hawaii. The travel it would bring for wedding because Hawaii is paradise in the eyes of others who have yet to share that special moment with their family. Just let people love who they are in love with. DOES IT EFFECT YOUR DAILY LIFE? NO, SO PASS IT!!!!!! The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else - to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana - gay or straight - should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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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: Laura Taylor
Honolulu, HI 96817
laura.e.taylor01@gmail.com

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 feel strongly that denying same-sex couples the rights, benefits and responsibilities of marriage is an unnecessary and harmful form of discrimination. Allowing Hawai'i's same-sex couples to marry in would no way infringe upon the freedom of heterosexual couples to live their own lives as they choose. Rather, it would eliminate a policy that perpetuates the message that gay and lesbian individuals are lesser citizens, that their love is of lesser value than a straight person's, and that they should not be who they are. This discrimination may seem slight to one who has not experienced the shame and stigma, but it is deep and painful to those who have. I personally hold close to my heart Thomas Jefferson's assertion that "Laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind." As I see it, Jefferson anticipated the broadening of the American mind--the increasing acceptance for all people regardless of personal differences--and intended this country's laws to be altered correspondingly. As elected officials, you have the unique power to protect the rights of all of Hawai'i's citizens. I urge you to promote love and acceptance by upholding the rights of same-sex couples and supporting marriage equality. 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: Alvin Miyatake
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
miyatakea001@hawaii.rr.com

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: Kawehilani Ballou
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
kawehiballou@live.com

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: Heather Morgan
Ewa beach, HI 96706
hdoles@msn.com

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: Joanna Chang
Honolulu, HI 96816
joanna.chang@student.chaminade.edu

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. Love is love. I am straight. My best friend is a lesbian and is engaged to her girlfriend, and I am already chosen to be her maid of honor. We'd really appreciate not having to move to another state so they can get married. I am also Catholic, although I stand with the Holy Father, our pope-- that as long as gays, lesbians, even atheists are doing good works and deep in their heart are in search for a higher power, it's okay. I know that God is love, and love is love. Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love. It is time for the fighting and discrimination against all types of groups. Passing this Marriage Equality bill is the first step we can take against all discrimination that is still happening now. 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: Robert Snyder
kaneohe, HI 96744
bsjed@hawaii.rr.com

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: Paul Tonnessen
Kahului, HI 96732
paulbythesea@gmail.com

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 gay man who has to wake up everyday to hear all these horrible things about who I am. Well I am not that person the religious right tries to make me out to be. I deal with abused and neglected children as a living. My only purpose is to make a positive difference in their lives. I also volunteer twice a week working with at risk youth teaching them that acceptance of anyone or anything that is different is instrumental in the health of their lives. You have taken an oath of separation of church and state and I hope that you realize that part of your job is to protect all the people not just the people you decide deserve rights. My representative Woodson made sure he let me know of his religious beliefs when I met him with my partner and I now see why he is undecided. He obviously does not consider that he has to adhere to his oath. To say the least it was not a comfortable exchange. I attend church and I have never had to tell a stranger that "I am a very religious person" All I ask is that you fulfill your duties that you swore to uphold. This is not about religious beliefs but about my right to live in a society that treats me no better or no worse than the next person. Please know that the LGBTQ community has existed under undeserved prejudices for too long and we need you to look at us like any other citizens of Hawaii and nothing else. It is about equality and that seems simple to say but very hard for people to recognize. Until you can wake up everyday and hear all these terrible things about who people think you are and knowing that you are a good and decent person you'll never feel the prejudice that I have to encounter on a daily basis. So I ask only one thing and that is that you consider me a citizen of Hawaii.

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: Dalmas Nardin
Honolulu, HI 96826
keokinardin@gmail.com

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

From: Deanna Kubota
Haiku, HI 96708
sealen60@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
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From: April Nims
Haiku, HI 96708
sprecksbeach@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: nirmaliz pena
honolulu, HI 96814
npena2003@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Malia Lau
Honolulu, HI 96817
malialau@hotmail.com

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

From: Flora Worth
Lihue, HI 96766
floramarie@hawaiiantel.net

RE: SB 1
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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: Ilana Moidel
Hilo, HI 96720
drumilana@hotmail.com

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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: Kristin Bacon
Honolulu, HI 96822
kbaconhi@hotmail.com

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 and I have been together for 18 years. We contribute positively to society, volunteer, and are professionals. I ask you from the bottom of my heart to please allow me to marry my partner. I absolutely believe that we deserve the rights and privileges that other couples do. Hawaii led the way back in 1990 in equality, and now, unfortunately, we have slipped behind. U.S. states and other countries have put marriage equality into law, and now it is our turn to bring the light of the protection of civil rights to our state. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Mari Yoshihara
Honolulu, HI 96822
myoshiha@me.com

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 is a basic right that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples that commit to long-term companionship and seek the state recognition of their relationship should be granted the same rights, privileges, protections as heterosexual women and men who choose to do so. The government's job is not to decide who can and who cannot marry. Rather, it is the government's responsibility to protect the rights of minorities and to ensure that justice is done. 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: David Higgins
Kamuela, HI 96743
dhiggins@ahfi.com

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. This is not a complicated issue; it is an issue of fairness. Vote for this bill because it is the right thing to do. David D. Higgins

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: Robert Marks
Honolulu, HI 96816
ram@hawaii.rr.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: storm stoker
Honolulu, HI 96822
sstoker@hawaii.edu

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: ruby canakis
honolulu, HI 96815
rubycanakis@yahoo.com

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

From: Noah Heanu
Honolulu, HI 96813
Pono7@gmail.com

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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: Chris Jackson
Honolulu, HI 96917
Cdjack@hawaii.edu

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Don Varni
Wailuku, HI 96793
don@valleyisleelectric.com

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 to add my voice in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, and in most cultures we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's family – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. Please do not let the very loud noise that the churches are making sway you in doing what is the right thing. Gay folks getting married in no way weakens or threatens conventional marriage. And who in their right mind would want to attempt to marry in a place where you were not wanted. Further, the government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Don Varni and employees of Valley Isle Electric Maui

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: Kim Akana
Waipahu, HI 96797
spazmaster69@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
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From: Judd Okayama
Honolulu, HI 96826
llamaboiz@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Betty Sestak
Kailua, HI 96734
jbsestak@prodigy.net

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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: William Miller
Kapaa, HI 96746
fatherbill@stmichaels-kauai.org

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

Be Not Afraid: Same Sex Marriage is a Matter of Justice and Righteousness The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." It is time to begin to correct the injustices that have been established in law against the LGBT community by approving the same sex marriage bill currently under consideration in the Hawaii State Legislature. While civil unions have been a step in the right direction, only marriage allows the full rights and protections for all consenting adult couples at both the federal and state level. As a Christian pastor, I am convinced that discrimination, even when advocated under the guise of religious obligation, is always wrong - morally, spiritually, and Scripturally. Those who advocate exclusion and inequality have consistently found themselves on the wrong side of history. Throughout time, religious writings and teachings have sometimes been used to oppose the abolition of slavery, the rights of women, and the protection of minority groups. For three hundred years in America, interracial marriage was unlawful. A cursory glance at history demonstrates that the objections to this practice were just as wrong then as objections to equality for gay persons are now. Interracial marriage was called "unbiblical," "unnatural," and "contrary to God's will." We can use religious texts selectively to do all sorts of harm in God's good world. The core values of most faith traditions encourage justice, fairness, equality, compassion and love. As we have come to understand, the majority has been wrong in the past about slavery, the role of women in the workplace and government, the rights of minorities, and interracial marriage. Thankfully, we were able to move forward. Now, people throughout the United States and the world are realizing that we have been just as wrong about gay marriage. It is the Holy Spirit that changes our minds and moves our hearts to be more righteous, just and loving. I believe it is now time to legally treat our LGBT brothers and sisters as full-fledged members of our State. Personally, I know them already to be fully part of the human family and, thankfully, of my faith tradition. I am proud that the Episcopal Church has consistently advocated for equality for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation. I am proud of our Episcopal Bishop of Hawaii, the Rt. Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick, for stating recently, "It is because marriage is a public institution sanctioned by the state and afforded unique legal protection that the extension of the right to same-sex couples is an issue of justice." I am proud of our Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and former head of the Anglican Church in South Africa, who recently compared his advocacy for LGBT

persons to his fight against apartheid: "I am as passionate about the 'Free and Equal' Campaign to promote the fair treatment of LGBT persons throughout the world as I ever was about apartheid. For me, it is at the same level." Opponents of equality are now tossing around ugly, divisive rhetoric that is harmful, uninformed and misguided, sowing seeds of fear, misunderstanding and intolerance. As I know the truth, God is love and God loves us all - including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons. I am proud to stand with them and support them on this issue in the name of justice and righteousness and in the name of Jesus Christ whom I serve. For, until we understand and appreciate that diversity is a gift, we will never understand and appreciate the God who created it. The Rev. William Miller is the Rector of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Lihue, Kauai

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: Rita Shuford
Kailua, HI 96734
Rjshuford@Hawaii.rr.com

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. To love one another is a gift. To be denied the right to marry the person you love and want to spend the rest of your life with is a tragedy. The more we support couples who love each other and want to make a life together, the more we support happy families that build healthy communities. The more we disenfranchise members of our community, the more unhappy and fragmented our communities. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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
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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: jennifer joo
honolulu, HI 96815
jenniferjoo@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Cat Taschner
Honolulu, HI 96816
cat.taschner@gmail.com

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

From: Ray Pace
honolulu, HI 96822
raypacewrites@gmail.com

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From: Catherine Delnat
Pearl City, HI 96782
cdelnat@hawaii.edu

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Scott Sutherland
Honolulu, HI 96817
scottjksutherland@gmail.com

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. Please do not allow the fear mongering of the opposition sway you away from the side of justice and equality. For too long in Hawaii the LGBT community has been treated unfairly under the law. You have the opportunity to stand on the right side of history. Please afford loving LGBT couples the same rights and responsibilities that straight couples have known throughout history. Mahalo nui loa for your time and for your public service.

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

From: Craig Bailey
Honolulu, HI 96826
Secteto_61@yahoo.com

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From: Katherine Saluzzo
Kihei, HI 96753
K_day_2002@yahoo.com

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From: Kae Toguchi
Mililani, HI 96789
kaetog@gmail.com

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From: Erika Alexander
Honolulu, HI 6813
Erika.alexander1@gmail.com

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From: S. Rabe
pearl city, HI 96782
Lovingitandlivingit1@gmail.com

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From: Leslie Novosel
Honolulu, HI 96822
leslienovosel@gmail.com

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From: Johnny Pastor
Aiea, HI 91501
johnnypastor@me.com

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From: Danny Bushart
Kihei, HI 96753
danny.bushart@gmail.com

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From: Patrick Spadinger
Honolulu, HI 96818
Auntieluana@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Justin Southern
Kihei, HI 96753
beastyboiz@yahoo.com

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

From: Wayne DeMello
Aiea, HI 96701
wrde8888@gmail.com

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 an older gay man, I have had the good fortune to be with my partner for over 30 years now and we have been waiting for the opportunity to finally be able to marry. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Barbara Weber
Honolulu, HI 96818
barbwbr@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Wendy Hudson
makawao, HI 96768
goodwitch1965@yahoo.com

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 SUPER strong support of SB 1. My gay friends and family deserve to have a chance to marry their partners, just like I did. They are not second class citizens. My older brother, Kevin, committed suicide because he just couldn't handle living a lie any longer - couldn't continue to act straight and live a straight lifestyle, when he was in fact gay. IF he was still alive, I would expect that he would want the opportunity to marry his partner. As such, I completely support this bill. 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: Ryan Kele
Kahului, HI 96732
rkele@pacificu.edu

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From: Daniel Baillargeon
Kihei, HI 96753
maui@mauistar.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Edward Curren
Mililani, HI 96789
currendavison@yahoo.com

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 urge you to vote yes in favor of same sex marriage. I hope that you will vote yes to end the form of BIGOTRY which has no place in our state of many different people and religions. Being able to marry who you love is a basic human right which should be codified in Hawaii state laws. Gay marriage is not a threat to my marriage. Divorce should be considered to be the greatest threat to marriage, yet I do not see anyone espousing the banning of divorce. I agree with the position that if a church claims tax-free status and offers facilities for marriage to the public in a for profit manner, then they should be required to offer these facilities to all of the public, including gay couples. Under the proposed law, churches who do not wish offer their facilities for marriage to the public have the option of ceasing their for-profit operations. The Bible, while a guiding document for some people's personal lives, should not enter into any justifications for civil law in the governmental arena. I firmly believe in the separation of church and state. I find it interesting that some people use the Bible and cherry-pick which beliefs they want to push on the rest of the public, including people of other religions. I personally resent the attempts to enshrine anyone's religious beliefs in public law. Voting no on this measure is a clear violation of our country's doctrine of separation of church and state. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else - to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana - gay or straight - should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Sincerely yours, Edward Flinn Curren 94-664 Kauakapuu Street Mililani, HI 96789

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: Bobbie Murakami
Kahului, HI 96732
BobbieMurakami@mac.com

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From: Brenda Fernandez
Kahului, HI 96732
Camposauto.frontdesk@gmail.com

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: Thomas Mahon
Honolulu, HI 96822
tommahon32@gmail.com

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'm proud that my teenager joined the Gay Straight Alliance at his school this fall. I want him to continue to feel the aloha of his home state. Adolescence is a time when everyone needs the love and support of family and community to grow up to be empathic, kind and responsible adults. I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Kimberly Johnson
Honolulu, HI 96816
kljohnson@bsugmail.net

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

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Lonnie Barton
Waianae, HI 96792
tisoy22@hotmail.com

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

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From: Nancy Kern
Honolulu, HI 96822
nkern5@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Mele Stokesberry
Pukalani, HI 96788
maupeaceaction@earthlink.net

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. This shouldn't even be about whether gays and lesbians will have the same rights, or fewer, under the civil unions protection. To get married is simply a civil right all adult people have. Period. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Charles Walworth
Kihei, HI 96753
magpiechuck@hotmail.com

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From: Mika Haberlin
Honolulu, HI 96819
mhaberlin09@gmail.com

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: james heermans
honolulu, HI 96814
oliveronald@yahoo.com

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From: David Starbuck
Kula, HI 96790
npd@maui.net

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Rachel Thorburn
Honolulu, HI 96822
rachelkthorburn@gmail.com

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

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Luke, members of the House Judiciary Committee and members of the House Finance Committee, I am writing in strong support of SB1. This is about equality. This bill is about equal rights and equal treatment under the laws of our State. We live in a country that separates church and state; religious doctrine and religious convictions cannot dictate public law. The matter is simple. The issue is clear. Do you support discrimination? Or do you support equality? 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: Edward Macey
Honolulu, HI 96814
emacey@somacedesign.com

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

From: Deborah Beirne
Hi, HI 96720
dscott@hawaii.edu

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: Erik Wessel
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
ekwessel@mac.com

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

From: Charles Spence
Kihei, HI 96753
chuck@mauisunseeker.com

RE: SB 1
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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: Karla Dias
Honolulu, HI 96816
karladias@hawaiiantel.net

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

From: Aniel Love
Pahpa, HI 95659
aniellove@gmail.com

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aniellove@gmail.com

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From: APS Wakida
Lahaina, HI 96761
apennell285@hotmail.com

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From: Scott Dean
Wailea, HI 96753
scott@caldean.net

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

From: Stephanie Dawson
Laupahoehoe, HI 96764
cafedawson@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Janna Yamashita
Kapolei, HI 96707
hilojanna@yahoo.com

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 Christian woman, and also a gay woman. As a Christian, I was taught not to judge others, and to love others as I love myself. Please help to make gays equal, in regards to marriage rights. We love our significant others, just as much as straight people do. We want our loved ones to have the same rights. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: jennifer joo
honolulu, HI 96815
jenniferjoo@gmail.com

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

Frankly, for anyone to believe that they are better or should have more rights due to the fact that they are hetero or religious is highly narcissistic and absurd. Hitler may be an extreme example but how different is his wanting to destroy the culture, the identity of those he felt were different - how is that so different to this situation on the grand scheme of things? It's no different at all. How dare people think that they have a right to control who to love. You may choose to ignore homosexuality as long as you'd like but for that long... you will be suppressing the happiness, freedom and joy of so many individuals. Which has happened already, for far too long and my heart aches for those people who feel imprisoned in their own bodies, families and communities. This should not be an issue dealt by the government. There are boundaries that must be set between what is personal, what makes things our own right as citizens, and as human beings! And what the government should be responsible for is to assist in creating a UNIFIED, accepting county, state, and country for us all. Stop the pettiness and more importantly, STOP THE HATE!!!

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: Salote Kauvaka
Honolulu, HI 96812
naia31@yahoo.com

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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Sara Patton
Wailuku, HI 96793
sarapattonmaui@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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From: Cara Larsen
Kamuela, HI 96743
Caraalarsen@yahoo.com

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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: Christine Ortiz
Wailuku, HI 96793
mauskater@mac.com

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: Margaret Mahon
Honolulu, HI 96822
momisuilan@gmail.com

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 son is a member of the Gay Straight Alliance. I have very dear friends at the UH who are gay and want to marry and have a family. I have other gay friends who simply want to be accepted as who they are and have equal rights. I was born and raised in Hawaii and there were horrible things said about homosexual people when I was young. I'm 60 now and it's time to embrace all Hawaii's children. Let's live aloha now. I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else - to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana - gay or straight - should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Wendy Scott-Vance
Naalehu, HI 96772
khandro@juno.com

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: Eduardo da Bahia
Honolulu, HI 96816
shaman@hawaiiantel.net

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: Tuyet Daikoku
HONOLULU, HI 96819
tdaikoku@dimensionselectrical.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: William Haines
Honolulu, HI 96822
wili_wili@yahoo.com

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 born and raised on Maui, as was my partner Rob, who is native Hawaiian. We were moved and filled with pride when our legislature passed civil unions. We felt that our representatives had stuck their necks out and had done the morally right thing, whether or not it was popular with all of their constituents. Although civil unions provide essentially the same rights as marriage on the state level, there are many benefits on the federal level that we cannot receive without marriage. One of these is the ability to remain in the same country as your spouse when they are not a US citizen. The separation of committed, loving partners is especially heartbreaking when the native country of one partner is a place where gays and lesbians are persecuted. This situation is probably more common than you think; it has happened to me. While at college at Cornell University (a long time ago), my long term boyfriend was from Ethiopia, and was not a US citizen. Shortly after we graduated, his student visa expired, and he had no choice but to leave the US and return home. If we had been a heterosexual couple, there would have been an obvious solution to this problem that would have allowed us to stay together, but this was 15 years ago, long before the federal government recognized same sex marriages. In the end, we were both lucky enough move on to successful lives and relationships, but for many couples, the story ends much differently. 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 Rees
Wailuku, HI 96793
wt7337@aol.com

RE: SB 1
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From: Judith Cremarosa
Kailua, HI 96839
stardance@earthlink.net

RE: SB 1
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From: Lee Slater
Honolulu, HI 96822
Leeslater75@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Madi Silverman
Kailua, HI 96734
jensend003@hawaii.rr.com

RE: SB 1
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From: Leslie Mullens
Kihei, HI 96753
Lmullens@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jacqueline Toilolo
Honolulu, HI 96819
keaki_65@yahoo.com

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

From: maria kailiponi
Kahului, HI 96732
mzmjk@yahoo.com

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

From: David Karl
Pahoa, HI 96778
kawika50@hawaiiintel.net

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. Gays and lesbians don't chose to gay, just as heterosexuals don't choose to be straight. That is who we are. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Also this subject should NOT be put up to public voting. Fifty years ago Civil Rights would not have been passed had it been put to a national vote. The Constitution of both Hawai'i and the United States both protect the equal rights of ALL people. Please vote in of marriage equality Mahalo and Aloha 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: Pamela Lichty
Honolulu, HI 96816
Pamelalichty@gmail.com

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, As a woman who's been married to the same man for 43 years, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. It's only fair and right that my friends in the gay and lesbian community have the same rights - and benefits - that my husband and I enjoy. As has been noted by others, if civil rights for black people and interracial marriage had been put to a vote, they would never have been put into law. It's the responsibility of our elected officials, to consider the arguments on both sides and make a thoughtful decision. I urge the members of the committee to do the right thing! Hope October IS turning out to be better for you! The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else - to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana - gay or straight - should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Kelsey Mano
Kapolei, HI 96707
kelseymano@ymail.com

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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: Dana Keawe
Pahoa, HI 96778
danamalina@yahoo.com

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

From: Jean Campbell
Kailua, HI 96734
jeankcampbell@gmail.com

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 cannot testify in person so instead I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry when that decision is being made on the basis of religious faith or on plain discrimination. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please show the people of Hawaii that you value and respect all humans. 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: Julia Balkom
Ewa beach, HI 96706
Juju1283@gmail.com

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From: Danielle Himmelsbach
Hilo, HI 96720
Capital_happy@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jim Anthony
Kaaawa, HI 96730
drjant@aol.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jane Greenwood
Honolulu, HI 96815
Janelgreenwood@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Brett Botbyl
Honolulu, HI 96826
brettbotbyl@gmail.com

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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: Kae Toguchi
Mililani, HI 96789
kaetog@gmail.com

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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.

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: Ellen Carson
Honolulu, HI 96813
egc@gmail.com

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 an attorney and a Christian, who believes religious texts are being misused against the gay community in the same manner as they have been against women and people of color. Equality of rights and dignity for all is a basic fundamental right. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's 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: Liisa VanDerMeer
Kapaa, HI 96746
alohaliisa@netzero.net

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. I still remember when inter-racial marriage was "a travesty" as well. Now it's commonplace and nobody bats an eyelash. How on Earth is this any different? Please let my grandchildren be born into and grow up in a land where equality is the basis for how we treat each other, rather than discrimination and bias. Mahalo. 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: Anita Anderson
Kapaau, HI 96755
anitaholuahawaii@yahoo.com

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: Isaac akiona
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
isaacakiona@yahoo.com

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: Gabriel Gutierrez
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Gabe808surf@aol.com

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: Andria Quigley
Mililani, HI 96789
Aquigley1@hotmail.com

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: Amy He
Honolulu, HI 96818
amyhe950623@yahoo.com

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: Sean Taylor
Honolulu, HI 96815
simashang@yahoo.com

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 husband Kale and I were married in August in NY. It was a time of great joy. We felt embraced by family, friends, and community. We were welcomed to the club. Then we came home, where my husband was born and raised, and now we are unmarried, or deemed-civil union partners. We try to keep a sense of humor about this but it is really offensive. To us this bill is about equality and inclusion. Excluding LGBT families from the institution of marriage or recognizing our marriages as something less than marriage is discrimination. It is harmful to the LGBT families and to the entire community, which is diminished when policies aimed at supporting division and exclusion are allowed to persist. There is no good reason the state should be interested in calling our marriage something other than a marriage. There is no good reason the state should be interested in denying us federal benefits that are tied to being married under state law. If anything, the state should be interested in encouraging people like us to get married here in Hawaii--spending our \$20,000 wedding budget here instead of NY. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

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: John Marshall
Honolulu, HI 96813
Marshall.jb@gmail.com

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 have lived in a committed relationship with my partner for 11 years now. I would like to have our relationship recognized as a marriage. 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: Adam Jenkins
Kailua, HI 96734
atomj@mac.com

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 strongly support SB 1. 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: Krissy Hooks
Waianae, HI 96792
krissy5581@gmail.com

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: Melanie Keolanui
Hilo, HI 96820
sevyinkeolanui@mac.com

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: Robie Lovinger
Kapolei, HI 96707
rezumes@hotmail.com

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 20 year commitment of love, respect and dedication to Louise Esselstyn, M.Div, is testimony that LOVE is stronger than anything. We need full marriage equality because our status as the first Reciprocal Beneficiaries in 1997 is not recognized as a valid relationship in the eyes of the U.S. Supreme Court...or in the eyes of the IRS, DOH, HHS, or the Social Security Administration. Since 1993, Louise and I have been challenged by spine surgery, brain surgery, and Multiple Sclerosis. However, we are strong because of OUR belief in God and Civil Rights for ALL people, without exception...and without exemptions. Equality and fairness are tenants of the true American way and we want marriage equality in Hawaii today! Nothing less, nothing more, just the same as that afforded to our 10 brothers and sisters and both sets of parents. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples

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: sandra perez
Honolulu, HI 96821
lamaperez@yahoo.com

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: Brenda Lee
Hilo, HI 96720
bklee94@gmail.com

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: Sally Raisbeck
Wailuku, HI 96793
sallyraisbeck@hawaii.rr.com

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. I have a niece whom I dearly love who is gay, and she deserves the right to marry the person she loves. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: John Hinkle
Honolulu, HI 96813
johnrhinkle@hotmail.com

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 believe in civil rights and equality for everyone. We cannot have groups of "haves" and "have nots" and consider ourselves as being right and just. Marriage equality is the right thing to do. It is pono. Please vote in favor of SB 1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Aloha! John Hinkle

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 Joe
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Ljoe62@gmail.com

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

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Robie and Louise for the past 15 years and have seen their love and com 業裕湲⁴瀦攢檢
瑯敵²煥慵瀦愠擊愠⁴梲敷²怒²地癩²瀦敷漠²祭泮牡械揚映械湲獺 犊瘡獺桴 獅蹉 潤
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敵數慳 桴敵模 敵撓峻棒 湯殺敵攢獅桴 浩瑛瑤潢愠獺 築楞潮欠釗獺汰峻撓蹉潭 步氧
渾汨瑋慥睥敬獮溼楫 敷梲 峻礎枯映峻礎虛慨吠 牡醒潦 渾溼溼獅犊摩獮潤馮 瑩皖湲
鏘籛 潦 枯灰沓 梲牡鶴 物癩雜 浯撈汨愁杀洮物癩稿 祥汲淮 樹敵

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: Kim Mosley
Kihei, HI 96753
kimmosley@earthlink.net

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: Juvir Martin
Hilo, HI 96721
juvir.m@gmail.com

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 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 should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Susan Osborn
Kahului, HI 96732
alohamexico@yahoo.com

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: Georgette Robidoux
Kula, HI 96790
gjett7@hotmail.com

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: John Tolentino
Honolulu, HI 96822
jpthi@hotmail.com

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: Carol Arney
Kailua, HI 96734
arneycm@earthlink.net

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: Annika Otterson
Makawao, HI 96768
aneldeot@gmail.com

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: Tracey Schavone
Anahola, HI 96703
traceyschavone@gmail.com

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: Crystal Cathcart
Honolulu, HI 96813
crystalcathcart@hotmail.com

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 mother, a social worker, a Honolulu resident, a proud citizen of Hawaii, an employee of the state, an adoptive parent, a girlfriend, an engaged community member, a volunteer, and a friend. My family and I spent last year living on the mainland and came running back home because we missed Hawaii so much. We intend to stay here indefinitely but know that we cannot do that if we are denied equal access to benefits that we pay for out of our taxes. Please show the same pride in our family that we have for our state. Life is hard enough without discrimination and bigotry. While I support the rights of others to practice their religions, they also must support my right to make my own choices and practice love the way I choose to. If my community cannot support me, I pray that the government will. After all, the rights of a minority group are rarely won with the backing of the majority. Government is vital at these times when so many people want to hang on to their own privilege. My family and I were at the rally tonight at the Capitol. We were brought to tears. My girlfriend got hit in the face with someone's sign espousing "traditional values." My daughter, only 8 years old, got glared at by mothers. People yelled in our faces. I did not hear activism. What I heard was hatred, fear, and ignorance. I saw a mob. I will not tolerate my daughter growing up around that sort of mayhem. I will continue fighting every day against it- teaching her love, peace, understanding, but all that she must stand up for what is right. Every morning in my neighborhood, people calling for a people's vote yell at us. They tell us to "go back home." They tell passersby that do not "look" Hawaiian to go back home. But this is our home. My mother's family grew up in Wahiawa. She went to Leilehua High School. My father first took me snorkeling at Kaanapali on Maui. My daughter and I spent mother's day a few years ago on the Big Island. We love to camp on the beach on Molokai. I have kayaked the Na Pali Coast of Kauai. We have so much pride in where we live. We understand that everyone's ancestors have come to Hawaii from someplace else. Marriage equality is not a mainland thing. It is a human race thing. We must set a positive example for other states and for other countries around the globe. This is not just a step forward for the LGBT community here, but for equality everywhere. I have heard many remarks that this law would enable the break-down of the traditional family. Too late! My daughter was adopted out of the child welfare system by my girlfriend and myself. Her birth parents (a heterosexual man

and woman) were unable to raise her. Other couples did not step forward. She spent over two years in foster care before we found her. Like her, she has two sisters that were adopted by another same-sex couple. What luck! Now, all the girls have a relationship with each other. We raise them well. Other same-sex couples have adopted thousands of children that were also not being raised appropriately by heterosexual parents. We may not appear traditional from the outside, but trust me, we are anything but alternative! My family goes all out on Christmas. We go to pumpkin patches. We do Saturday morning activities. We argue. We don't like washing dishes. We love to sleep in. We play at the beach. We spend time with friends. We go to PTA meetings and swim practices. We eat breakfast together and go crazy at homework time and get up every morning and do it all over again. We are just a family. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Same-sex couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else - to make a lifetime promise of love and commitment to the person they love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Sincerely, Crystal Maya Cathcart

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: Adam Burke
Kihei, HI 96753
adamburkemaui@yahoo.com

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'm "straight," Christian, have been married for 22 years, have two wonderful children, and it's time that our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters enjoy the same basic rights and protections under the law as the rest of us. This is not a religious issue. It's a civil rights issue. Our nation was established with an intentional separation between Church and State for a reason. If individual churches elect not to conduct same sex marriages, then that's their prerogative. For our government to continue denying this basic liberty, however, is simply discrimination. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana - gay or straight - should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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: michelle kobayashi
hilo, HI 96720
michiandkimara@yahoo.com

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: Karl Gottling
Wailuku, HI 96793
karl@gottlingltd.com

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

Aloha 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. To make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love should be a constitutional right for everyone, no matter of their sexual orientation. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they love. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Bonnyjean Manini
Honolulu, HI 96822
waimeavalleygirl@hotmail.com

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: Ma'aka Marine
Kahului, HI 96732
Makatora@yahoo.com

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.

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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: Robert Chomos
Honolulu, HI 96826
bobchomos@yahoo.com

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 have been waiting my whole life for the right to marry the man I love. The country is finally ready for our civilization to advance and become more accepting of gay relationships. Civil marriage must be available to all couples, regardless of religious beliefs. This is the aloha state. We should be leading the country in this effort. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank-you! 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: Lance Nobriga
Anahola, HI 96703
Nobrigs@msn.com

RE: SB 1
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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: Allison Fong
Honolulu, HI 96822
allison.8.fong@gmail.com

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 right to marry is at the heart of today's civil rights movement. This bill will provide equal rights for all of Hawaii's ohana regardless of sex, orientation, religion, or creed. As a community, we cannot ignore measures that ensure the protection of the rights of all people. The right to marry is not a religious one. It is a civil one. Please vote in support of SB1. Our community, not just the LGBTQ community, requires we move forward in ways that serve to strengthen our community, not divide it. Equality builds strength and empowers our people. 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: Ryan Okinaka
Kaneohe, HI 96744
ryanokinaka@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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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: Louise Simrell
Waialua, HI 96791
haleluana@hawaii.rr.com

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: Sean McDonough
Honolulu, HI 96816
sean.mcdonough3@gmail.com

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.

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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: Robert Orfali
Honolulu, HI 96815
orfali@hawaii.rr.com

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 getting married here is good for our state. It's the right thing to do and it shows that Hawaii is really the land of aloha. 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: Anna Funk
Honolulu, HI 96815
Msannapaige@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
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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: Rise Doi
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
risedoi@gmail.com

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. Same-sex couples deserve the same federal benefits as heterosexual couples. It comes down to equality. All people should be treated with compassion and fairness. Our elected officials need to consider what is best for all residents of the state of Hawaii. Some issues are too important to be left up to voters. We elected our representatives and senators to do what is fair for everyone. Please pass this marriage equality bill! Let's be on the correct side of history when we look back on this issue 20 years from now. 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: JR P
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
fiscojr@gmail.com

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. Let me say why in my own humble words. No matter how hard one tries to disguise it, hate will always be hate. Luckily, it is the same for love. Love will always be love. You can't hide it or disguise it no matter how hard one tries. Ask yourself something. Have you fallen in love before? Do you remember how your body felt? How you could not hold back that beaming smile. How you wanted the feeling to last forever? And ever? That you would do anything for that one person whom you have given this love to. Isn't love a freedom entitled to all of us? Love is happiness to most everyone. To create a family. To live in peace with someone you love. Till death do us part. Isn't that what is said of the sanctity of marriage? So will I be able to see my loved one in a hospital bed when they are sick or dying? Can't I even use just that last line? Can't we spare love this burden? In the end, it is only love that will triumph. Not even laws will keep two people from committing a sacred vow to one another. But humanity is being placed in question. Life is difficult enough to make ends meet, so why are the most fundamental sources of happiness being questioned? Change must happen to a changing world. The truth is hard to face, but the world is changing. And we have to question what we cannot deny others. If one has to question this primal nature of being, why don't we question the opposite. Why don't we question the hate that is in disguise? Why don't we question our faith and understanding that everyone is equal. We eat, sleep, breathe, work, and love the same. Yes, we all love the same. And yes, feeling all happy inside is the same as well. It's the same. We are all equal inside. Equality is what makes us human. We, in Hawaii embrace our differences. Differences is what makes Hawaii so beautiful. And there is no difference in love. No matter how hard it is to accept, change is the only disguise we have to face. To face the future struggles of many who just want that human kindness that is free for a whole lot of people. Will I find someone to love? Will I smile that smile? Will I get married? To a little boy who has always known the truth, I urge you to see what love truly is. Marriage will always exist in everyone's eyes as the best gift to receive. Let it be what it should be. Equal for everyone to experience it once in their lifetime. Wouldn't you want that for yourself? Please support marriage equality. I will love you for it!

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 Gale
Aiea, HI 96701
Jennifer.Chappee@gmail.com

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: Bo Frank
Honolulu, HI 96818
Radfordrams@hotmail.com

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. In addition to the above my parter and I have two adopted children who have loving parents that can't be married. How fair is that to our family? How fair is that to our Children? Same sex marriage isn't just about equal rights it also has much to do about family, and what's right for the wonderful children of Sam sex couples. 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: Lei Kapoi
Honolulu, HI 96817
kalei28143@hotmail.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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From: Libert Weatherholtz
Honolulu, HI 96817
puating@hotmail.com

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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: Noelle Dagil
Mililani, HI 96789
mauihaolegirl@yahoo.com

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: Marc Thai
Honolulu, HI 96826
Thaisaigon@yahoo.com

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: PHYLLIS DADE
WAHIAWA, HI 96786
dakinedade@aol.com

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: Jessica Lum
Honolulu, HI 96816
Jeklum@gmail.com

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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: Sarah Daigle
Honolulu, HI 96822
ladylikedreamer@yahoo.com

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: Pono Ka'ahanui
Honolulu, HI 96819
Braddahtatz@me.com

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.

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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: Elizabeth Kline
Honolulu, HI 96816
klineliz@yahoo.com

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. After sitting through over 10 hours of testimony on whether or not same sex marriage should be legal in Hawaii, I am disheartened by the amount of hate I face here in the Aloha state. I moved to Hawaii 8 years ago to be close to my family. I am originally from Maryland, a state that has passed same sex marriage. I was upset by the many people who felt that LGBT couples should simply go to another state to get married and then return to Hawaii to be "recognized" as married. Hawaii is my home. I have built a life here, my family, friends and work is here. It is upsetting that some people think the solution to equal rights is to send us away to celebrate in a commitment with our partners and then simply return as though no harm has been done. My family deserves to be recognized by my home state and by the government here in Hawaii. I have been fighting for equal rights and protections under the law for the past 4 years now and I am hoping that you will finally do the right thing and pass marriage equality here in the aloha state. Thank you for reading my testimony and for having this special session that will correct a terrible wrong here in Hawaii. Liz Kline The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else - to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana - gay or straight - should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Reverend Dr. Todd Zenji Takahashi
Honolulu, HI 96817
toddtakahashiedd@ymail.com

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 Todd Takahashi, and I am an associate minister at the Konko Mission of Honolulu located in the heart of Liliha. I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom and a civil right that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. On Monday, October 28, 2013, I listened to much testimony about people's opinion in regards to marriage equality and was appalled at how people kept infusing "God" in with their testimony. Albeit I am a minister, I also know that church and state must remain separate. However, I am also very grateful to belong to a faith that honors diversity and does not discriminate against gays and lesbians. As a former high school teacher, I have seen the hardships my gay students have gone through. And yet, I know that a number of my students were also raised by gay parents. People have claimed that gays cannot parent and that it would ruin a child. I beg to differ. Some of my best students were raised by two loving and committed same-gendered parents. One of my students, knew that his mother was transgendered and still loved and accepted her! In your own 'ohana and amongst your friends, you know that there are individuals who are gay. Why must we suppress them? Why must society make them second-class citizens? As that one beautiful woman told Senator Hee when he asked her how she felt about other Christians being in support of gay marriage her response was, "It isn't a matter of marriage anymore, it is a matter of loving that person and wanting that person to be happy. As long as they are in love." Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Todd Z. Takahashi, Ed.D. Associate Minister Konko Mission of Honolulu

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: Stephanie Ducheneaux
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Stephdx@gmail.com

RE: SB 1
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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: Brian Silva
Aiea, HI 96701
briangsilva@yahoo.com

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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: Judith Grover
Kihei, HI 96753
Judygrover1@me.com

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

From: John Weeks
Aiea, HI 96701
jweeks73@hotmail.com

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From: Rita O'Hara
Mililani, HI 96789
Raoh8@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Kimberlea Baz
Kula, HI 96790
radhediana@yahoo.com

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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: Jim Yoshioka
Honolulu, HI 96816
jkyosh2@gmail.com

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, As a gay man living in Kaimuki, a faithful taxpayer, a UH employee, an HGEA member, a Buddhist, an educator, and a believer in the importance of civil liberties, equality, and the power of love, I am writing in strong support of SB 1. Many of my friends have been in long-term committed relationships for decades, and yet current law in the state of Hawaii does not allow them to marry or share the same legal and tax benefits, visitation rights, etc. as married straight couples. Singling a group out for exclusion or denigration causes great harm to their psyche and soul. It is time to catch up to the rest of the world, embrace all of our ohana equally, and send the message to our citizens, the nation, and indeed the world that Hawaii lives up to its name as the home of aloha. 14 other states have embraced marriage equality already. Hawaii's time has come. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian 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.

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

From: Judy Athans
Honolulu, HI 96817
Jata@hawaiiantel.net

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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: Alexander Simson
Lihue, HI 96766
alexandersimson1@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Clyde Engle
Haiku, HI 96708
clydewengle@aol.com

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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: Paul Kraselsky
Koloa, HI 96756
gipk@comcast.net

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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: Patricia Blair
Kailua, HI 96734
Patriciablair@msn.com

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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
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From: Robert Y Asato
Mililani, HI 96789
bobasato@hawaii.rr.com

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From: LaDonna Davidson
Kula, HI 96790
ddavidson@hawaii.rr.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Angelo Aguanno
Waimanalo, HI 96795
Aa1337@aol.com

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, Recently, rather than being able to have our friends and family (and their money) back in Hawaii where we wanted our marriage and reception, we were forced to go to the mainland and spend our money there to get married. 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: Shannon Furomoto
Wailuku, HI 96793
sfuromoto@hawaii.rr.com

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: Jonathan Lehman
Kihei, HI 96753
jonathanlehman@yahoo.com

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From: james clawson
Honolulu, HI 96815
clawson-j@sbcglobal.net

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jane Fee
Honolulu, HI 96825
bj77fee@gmail.com

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From: Jim Cooper
Honolulu, HI 96816
jimcooper@mindspring.com

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From: Roberta Kokx
Wailuku, HI 96793
covercaddy@gmail.com

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 Roberta Kokx and I strongly support the passage of SB1 for Marriage Equality in Hawaii. On October 7, 2013 I got married to my partner of 20 years in Sacramento, California. My wife and I were lucky to have the resources to get married on the mainland. It is unfortunate that other couples like us are unable to travel thousands of miles to get married. Also, it saddens us that our marriage is not recognized in our home state of Hawaii, but you can help us by passing the Marriage Equality Bill (SB1). Please do not allow our civil rights to go to a "popular vote." I believe that strong families make strong communities. Please help us secure our basic civil rights by recognizing same-sex marriages in Hawaii. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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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: Mark Koppel
Hakalau, HI 96710
mak221@aol.com

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. Honorable Committee Members: Aloha. My name is Mark Koppel. I live on Hawaii Island in Hakalau. I wish I could be here person but, unfortunately, I cannot. I am writing in support of SB1, to provide Equal Marriage for all in Hawai'i. First, let me emphasize this a Civil Rights bill. We do not have referendums on people's rights. In Hawai'i, most of us, from the wonderful original Hawai'ans, to Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Blacks etc. have been subjected to discrimination based solely on one characteristic of theirs. The same thing has happened to Lesbians and Gays. One characteristic has led to severe discrimination against them. The Supreme Court has ruled that this discrimination is unconstitutional. Let me answer what my Opponents will say. First, "Marriage between a man and a woman is God's law". We do not govern our state or country by "God's law". And whose God? The Judeo-Christian God, the Buddhist God, the Shinto God? In the Bible, many men have multiple wives and concubines. Is this what we want? This argument fails. Second, Marriage between a man and a woman follows "natural law". Once again, what is "natural law"? In nature, many animals have what could be called same-sex relations. There are stories, for example, about two male penguins mating for life and raising chicks. The argument fails. Third, Marriage is for procreation. One of the worst arguments of all. Do we prevent sterile people from marrying? Old people? People who say they don't want to have children? Do we end marriages that have not produced children? The argument fails. Fourth, Homosexuality is a choice. As almost any Lesbian or Gay person can tell you, they knew what they were from childhood. In spite of years of trying to change, Lesbians and Gays remain that way. The so-called Ex-Gay movement is completely discredited by former members, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, etc. etc. Two states, New Jersey and California have passed laws banning so-called Ex-Gay therapy. The argument fails. Fifth, Equal Marriage will destroy America. This would be news to the people of the fifteen states that have Equal Marriage. There have been no changes in marriage, divorce, etc. The end of Don't Ask Don't Tell has not negatively affected the Military at all. The only change is Lesbians and Gays and their children can enjoy the benefits everyone does. The argument fails. Sixth, There will be a slippery slope of people marrying their siblings, their pets, a bridge in France, multiple partners, etc. This is false. Why does this not happen now? Because we restrict marriage to

two people who hopefully love each other. Nothing changes under Equal Marriage. Since Equal Marriage has begun, not one of these absurd prophecies has come true. Nor will they. The argument fails. Seventh, Equal Marriage will harm religion. False. The laws of our state and country provide for the separation of church and state. No church can be forced to marry anyone. Many churches right now refuse to marry interfaith couples. This is their right. Some refuse to marry divorced couples. This is their right. If any church refuses to marry two men or two women, this is their right. No religion has been harmed in any sense. The argument fails. Eighth, Equal Marriage will require services such as photographers and florists to work for Same-Sex couples. What opponents do not say is that this is already true. Our anti-discrimination laws prevent any business that serves the public from discriminating against any group now. Nothing will change. The argument fails. I believe these points answer any possible objections to Equal Marriage. Our state has a wonderful tradition of equal opportunity for all. This is our chance to show what Aloha really means. We can lead the way for other people. All this law does is provide the opportunity for two people and, in many cases, their children, to receive equal protection under the law. They can visit their spouse in the hospital and control their care when needed; they can provide for their families at death; they can pay taxes equal to other couples; they can receive any of the famous 1,100 federal benefits married couples receive. Civil Unions do not provide these. Only marriage does. Who could possibly be against this? Equal Marriage is overdue. I know our legislature will pass SB1 and bring us once again to the forefront of Equality in the nation. Mahalo Mark A. Koppel P O Box 283 Hakalau, HI

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
Representative Sylvia Luke, Finance Committee Chair
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Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
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From: Danielle Bergan
Lahaina, HI 96761
bergand001@hawaii.ee.com

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From: Dr. Elizabeth and Bran-D Foster Heckman
Honolulu, HI 96822
AlohaE@hawaii.rr.com

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From: Randy Goff
Honokaa, HI 96727
Rndygff@gmail.com

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Kihei, HI 96753
mariasempre@aol.com

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From: Melanie DeMotta
Mt View, HI 96771
mdemotta77@hotmail.com

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Kaaawa, HI 96739
Gannonm29@hotmail.com

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From: Sarah Loney
Wailuku, HI 96793
Mauisadie@hotmail.com

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From: Sharlene Tuiasoa
Kailua, HI 92629
sharlenetuiasoa@lcad.edu

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From: Budi Staven
Honolulu, HI 96814
Budistaven@yahoo.com

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From: Carolyn Pomeroy
Kamuela, HI 96743
kpterra@gmail.com

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, Please help bring Hawaii into the 21st Century by sharing the enlightenment that an increasing number of other states are showing. It will come sooner or later, and we will look back at the intolerance of certain people and shake our heads. I've been seeing TV ads which claim that allowing gay marriage would punish families that oppose it. This is a totally bizarre claim! They are no more harmed than unmarried couples are harmed by the marriage of anyone else. Gay couples are the ones who are being harmed right now by people who think it's their business to pass judgment on them and try to keep them from having the same rights as others. Maybe it's the people who pay for those ads who should not marry and pass their intolerance on to a new generation...intolerance that truly does harm others. Hawaii prides itself on being a melting pot, a place of acceptance. Let's show that we still have that spirit, and stop pretending that responsible, loving couples are somehow a threat to society. They aren't.

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From: Anthony De Jesus
Kapaa, HI 96746
tony@dejesusarchitecture.com

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. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Civil Union is not equal to marriage and without the right for all to legally marry in Hawaii some of our citizens are denied equality in Hawaii and at the national level. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else - to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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From: Dane Ganes
Pearl City, HI 96782
dane_ganes@yahoo.com

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From: Leslie Foster
Honolulu, HI 96821
mamaleslief@gmail.com

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 Committee members, Please add my family's name to the growing list of supporters for marriage equality. We have long been supporters of GLBT equality, not only because of having family and friends amongst this demographic, but also because we believe that two people in a healthy loving relationship should be free to seal their commitment to each other. We have so many problems in our community today, let's stop looking at marriage equality as a problem and focus our time and energy on housing, drug use, abuse, employment... Mahalo for your time and commitment to hearing the voice of Hawaii's people. I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Susanne Grob
Kapolei, HI 96707
Susannegrob919@hotmail.com

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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. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Marion Sangiuliano
Honolulu, HI 96814
msangiuliano@pphi.org

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Kamuela Ka'Ahanui
Honolulu, HI 96815
kamuela_kaahanui@yahoo.com

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From: David Allen
Honolulu, HI 96813
david.mi.allen@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Joan Gannon
Kealakekua, HI 96750
joankona@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Robert John Harper-O'Connor
Wailuku, HI 96793
mothdustz@gmail.com

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 of SB1, Relating to Equal Rights Dear Chair Hee and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: The young people of Hawaii, our future, want to live in an advanced society that is free of discrimination and mistreatment of others. That is why they are depending upon you to do what is current and right for now. They are planning on voting out people who are hateful and demeaning toward others, as the people against marriage equality have shown themselves to be. In this issue, you are against us if you are not for us. That is why you ought to support the Hawaii Marriage Equality Act of 2013. Also, we are not a theocracy. People in Hawaii Civil Unions can and will sue for equal protection and access to federal benefits you are denying them by preventing marriage in this state. I ought to know since that is what I will have to do if I must. I resent having to write this letter at all because I believe you understand fully that the rights of people are meant to be protected by the courts and not put up for voting. We won that right many years ago before it was wrongfully taken away. How awful it has been all these years waiting. Well our time has come with the end of DOMA. I'm certain you understand this and will vote in support of the act unless you only want to placate the opinions and beliefs of backward people who don't care or understand about the needs of others. You may wrongly choose to ignore the concrete realities expressed in the needs of gay people if you personally dislike them, but then you are not doing your job- the job of securing rights, benefits, and needs of your constituents. It is not your job and you were not elected to sit in pompous moral judgement against the needs of a minority and the future dreams of the young generation. Your job is to move us forward, please!

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: Nahika Stout
Haiku, HI 96708
nahikas_world@yahoo.com

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From: Malcolm Ahlo
Waianae, HI 96792
malcolmahlo@hotmail.com

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From: Tiana Dole
Honolulu, HI 96826
tianad79@gmail.com

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牡械条回煥慵榻械戩梭柿漆獨散响鈺膜敵孺戩⁹整菸灑回漆⁵桷
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榻榭榻温菸泐⁹榻敦 沅撓祭 漠璿慰 馮 擊僅獾 獾桴 漠璿慰 換泐禱敵馮健榆睡蠶淳
戩泐? 纛泐撓璿灑惚 馮槍微氧温瀉汚温鈺 活集祭 戩菸楷 敵敵潦馮 槩榭慷慈敵時
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孺敵瑩圪獨撓瘳桥霽灑鈺集概瑛疊灰敵孺眠泐鈺耀慥菸⁹慷回吠敵!?敵汚穩擣鈺擣獾枋敵
瑛敢集瀾祐温擊擣敵桴峻桧鈺眠獨擣晚敦敵瑛映瀉愁潛械械漠回桴回数灯敬眠泐氧癩回敵敵
!?泐泐械歲瑛慨*馮槍擊集瀾快敵孺温擊敵回抵敵瑛祭散碎 敵敦汶敵鈺 !瑩物欠 枋瘠泐
慮異政 北祭槩 禮欲祭北回卑愁畫+瑛敵⁹牡回敵禱泐換回回慰璿漠回祭眠牯撓温擊瑛
敵眠牯桴獅鈺擣回鈺温汚瀉温堂慥榻柿佳備瑛瑩泐敵裕鈺集汶⁰瑛敵獲槩敵擣鈺温景狹枋
窠散瑛瑛敵獲疊档温回灑回吠敵狹於敵瑛漠回台稭錯鏢乏鉢虞刹璿登≡集獨敵敵桴瀉清温瀉
凌瀉膜淡枋汚徑瑩敵梭柿漠回湯回愁馮湯回筆愁回魁瑛獨膜温温氧瑩泐回整档楮慣敵敵溷潤
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慨 散獾晚敵繫擊温 槓繫 汁 北牽漠擊温 扭敵 汨泐映瑛敵敦晚擣 榻扩
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槓瑛擊禮 牯院戩敵慣桷 獾桴 鉢瑛擣瑛敵湯撓擣崇璿 眠醫集 璿富 峻 慷 槩

嗽獲瑩⁹景寔睡榆⁰聊虞渴傷 獮溼獅伎燿揚殼業浯撻愠運效戩嗽慨 牡敦 茲瑳慰 桴 濛
愠獨整慥牴渴馭楮杯挽燿敲愠敗畚畚潮潔棄揚穢滿渴怙戩獨眠涑眠 瑄慰 泮桴楷 楨
激涑械映祢 汰峻撓揚械牡瀾荥慥畧激渴惹業徑 揚物瑄燿鉦涑整燿來穢整敲獨搦浯激
梲⁰慰瑄敵獲渴惹桔狹惛整戩涑皖瑩⁰慨嗽戩效哺潦漸揚咥⁰涑戩⁰桴⁰楣⁰窠涑溼柚瘰穢溼
獮 撓揚械牡泮潞敲敦景 瑩皖涑戩污舂揚映命⁰么⁰戩瑣怙映敬扩杓伎 潮 牡 眠 敷涑
攢 械牡泮潞漣 整涑 荥惹怙映潞 咥警荥愠潞 牵汨惹 獅琮 桴 漠散咳挽戩激汰峻
督渠敲愠激獅瑳 故瑯棄敲慥牲惹 散 浲狹潞漣敲整涑 癡集濛眠獬慵摩癩擊棄檢峻桴嗽
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漣效暉敢 条械牡泮桴楷 漣污戩 獮桴 瑩眠柿楮漣來戩 慣 牵潤 漠舂扭晦 棄璿杓
械瑳溼穢挽搦瑄峻繫敲敲灵匠礫散敲 桴棄揚揭灭棄擊愠激檢燿礫敲敦晚搦景 污時窠櫟
敲濼敲⁰吠 拈 条械牡慶景 獮敦攷 桴警搦柿登眠峻撓狹效桴⁰琮獅⁰敵揚⁰潞狹濼⁷
濼敵撓浯数荥漣⁰敵獨湯瑣揭業⁴惹牲慥敲瑣灯潰煤整豕⁰彪撓峻汰激 溼穢癩⁰玳瑣散敲 桔
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湯梲慥倒孺禮污搦杯泮档⁰振佳渴搦舂⁰彘眠楨档鉦愠⁰敵扭舂⁰慨⁰潤据畚⁰桴⁰璿瑣⁰敵敲棄
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To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
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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: Irene Kalama
kapolei, HI 96708
irenekalama09@gmail.com

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Position: Strong Support

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From: Chris Ward
Haiku, HI 96708
MojoSomething@aol.com

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From: Jennfier Bellville
Kaneohe, HI 96744
jmbellville@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Karl Minke
Honolulu, HI 96813
minke@hawaii.edu

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 long-term resident of Hawaii, having moved here in 1968 to take a position as faculty member in the psychology department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. For the past 37 years I have been in a committed relationship with my partner, who was born and raised in Honolulu. We are recognized and treated as a married couple by friends, colleagues, and family. When I retired, we registered as domestic partners, and many state benefits have been afforded us under the civil union provisions. However, we are not eligible for the 1,138 federal benefits offered to married couples because of the State's failure to allow us to formally enter into marriage, even though individuals who have entered into same-sex marriage in other states are now able to claim such benefits. Marriage has been established as a fundamental civil right in a number of court cases, beginning with those dealing with marriage between individuals of different races and implied in the recent Supreme Court decision striking down the Defense of Marriage Act. Therefore, it would seem the State needs to show some compelling reason to limit marriage to opposite-sex couples. The recent television commercial opposing same-sex marriage in Hawaii argues that such action would result in "damaging our people," but it is not clear in what way this damage would occur. The American Psychological Association, of which I am a member, has concluded that there is no scientific basis for denying marriage rights to same-sex couples, in terms either of the effects on the same-sex partners themselves or on their children. State civil rights laws forbid discrimination along a number of dimensions, including sexual orientation. Failure to extend the right to marriage to same-sex couples would seem to be in direct violation of this precept, since it discriminates against gay couples with respect to a fundamental civil right. I am respectful of the right of religious groups to define "holy matrimony," but this should have no impact on the right of the legislature to establish the legal definition of marriage for governmental purposes. I strongly support the passage of SB 1. Thank you for your consideration. Karl A. Minke

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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: Theresa Kreif
Honolulu, HI 96816
Theresakreif@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jenna Long
Kurtistown, HI 96760
jkking@hawaii.edu

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Thomas Blackburn
Kailua Kona, HI 96740
konatom@hawaii.rr.com

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. Allowing them to get married, freely, openly is NOT going to diminish anyone else's marriage; on the contrary, it will strengthen the institution of marriage and family overall. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on 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 personally want the right to marry whomever I love. The arc of history is bending toward marriage equality; Hawaii, of all places, should be in the forefront of this human rights 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
Representative Sharon Har, Judiciary Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Finance Committee Vice-Chair
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: David Rooks
Kihei, HI 96753
dmrooks@gmail.com

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

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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: Lina Krueger
Wailuku, HI 96793
linak@live.com

RE: SB 1
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Position: Strong Support

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From: Brooke Rodenhurst
HOnolulu, HI 96822
brodenhurst@yahoo.com

RE: SB 1
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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: Jamie Louis
Pearl City, HI 96782
jlouis@hawaii.edu

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Position: Strong Support

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Richard Nettell
Honolulu, HI 96826
nettell@hawaii.edu

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 time has surely come, as many U.S. Supreme Courts have already agreed, to stop discriminating against certain of our citizens by denying them the right to have their (often very long-standing) relationships recognized legally in marriage, if that is what they so choose. I teach at UH, and I can assure you that 100% of my students (gay or straight) think that any attempt to halt this change would be the equivalent of reintroducing racial inequality. So please do the right thing in 2013: we shamed ourselves the last time when so-called "traditional" voices were allowed to overpower the basic call for equal rights.

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

From: Jeffery C Van Ness
Honolulu, HI 96821
five5mango@aol.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Nagel Flores
Honolulu, HI 96819
nagelflrs@gmail.com

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From: Emilie Nachtigall
Kailua, HI 96734
en@highresolves.org

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 someone who grew up in Hawaii, I feel a strong connection to the land and culture of the Islands. I hope to return to Hawaii to raise my own family in the future; even though I am currently living in Australia. My wife is Australian and until very recently, had no path to a visa to live in the US. The only option for us to be together was for me to move overseas. We were married on October 13 2012 in a legally unrecognized ceremony at Hanaiakamalama, or Queen Emma Summer Palace. We took our wedding vows in front of all of our friends and family, and later made our marriage legal in California on August 13, 2013. I am unclear on how keeping our spiritual commitment and legal marriage (in California, and in the eyes of the federal government) from being recognized is a benefit to anyone in Hawaii. Legalizing our marriage will only give us the same rights as everyone else in Hawaii, making all people equal under the law. It is time to remove discrimination from the laws of Hawaii, an accepting place that values ohana, and strong families. Please help to strengthen our family, and give us full equality. Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to testify.

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
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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: Robert Herberger
Honolulu, HI 96815
rjh19391@gmail.com

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 question is about equal rights, not marriage! In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for equality for all. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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From: Diliaur Tellei
Honolulu, HI 96822
diliaur@gmail.com

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From: Tiana Aana
honolulu, HI 96822
tianakas@yahoo.com

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From: Makamae Torres
Hilo, HI 96720
makamaetorres@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Gary Shin-Leavitt
Wailuku, HI 96793
amadeus32@hotmail.com

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 support marriage equality. I utterly reject the premise that marriage equality will somehow damage heterosexual marriage, just as if I choose to eat a cheeseburger it will somehow affect someone else's diet. No church or clergy will be forced to perform any ceremony contrary to their tenets. It's as if my bar mitzvah somehow diminishes a First Communion. It is simply ludicrous on its face. If people don't support marriage equality, then don't have them in that church - many other churches and synagogues in Hawaii will. The Constitution explicitly states that people absolutely cannot force their beliefs on others. This is the common ground the Founding Fathers built this great nation upon, which is precisely why we are not a theocracy like Iran. What bothers me the most when I see this vitriolic hypocrisy is the amount of money being spent trying to prevent marriage equality on the radio, TV and in the newspaper. All that money could have been used to house the homeless, feed the hungry, educate our youth and help the

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Jessica Butay
Waipahu, HI 96797
jessica_Strawberry76@yahoo.com

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

From: Courtney Cook
Honolulu, HI 96822
cookca@hawaii.edu

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From: Kalsie Holt
Honolulu, HI 96822
Kalsieh@gmail.com

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. Love is love. Whether it's between woman and woman, man and man, or man and woman. All love is equal. Love is not limited. It's a feeling, and it's free. We as a people should be free too. We should be free to be with the person we love without the discrimination. Lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals all deserve the right to marry who they please. I, being a proud lesbian, have a partner whom I love. When the day comes that we decide to get married, I'd like to be able to do so without leaving my home. Hawai'i is where I grew up and where I found myself. Having to leave here to celebrate a union of love elsewhere is unfair. Not only for myself, but for others like me. My LGBT community deserves the right to say "I do" in a church surrounded by family and friends. This hatred upsets me... What if someone told you it was wrong to be straight? What if people held signs and yelled hateful words towards you just because you wanted to marry someone, but it wasn't "allowed"? More like not accepted. It's wrong to make people feel unaccepted and uncomfortable because they love someone of the same sex. As kids we were told discrimination was bad. So, why? Why is it that when we grow up and finally find ourselves discrimination is at our front door, at our work places, and on our streets. Discrimination = Hatred. Love is love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Kelli Pardi
Honolulu, HI 96815
Kellipardi@cox.net

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From: Brayden Ramos
Kaneohe, HI 96744
redhonu@msn.com

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From: Sierra Martin
Mililani, HI 96789
sierra.martin.702@gmail.com

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From: Kaleo Ramos
Kaneohe, HI 96744
diamondpegasus@gmail.com

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From: jacqueline paishon
Waianae, HI 96792
blksands@gmail.com

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 opposition of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person you love has always been man and woman not man and man or woman and woman. 1. Can Gays procreate with each other? NO they can't so are they equal to man/woman married people? NO 2. Why is it that the government even has a right to decide such a thing? For the life of me I cannot see how Gay people think they have equality with a normal man/woman married couple. It is ludicrous! 3. From the beginning of time Marriage has been between a man and a woman this is so shameful that this issue has even come up, it is NOT for man to decide, leave things as they were Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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From: Janet Burke
Kihei, HI 96753
mauijanet@yahoo.com

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 wanted to let you know that I support of SB 1. My reasons are many. Although I am straight, married 22 years with two tween-ages children, I have close personal and familial relationships with people from the LGBT community that I hold dear. Some are single, some are in committed relationships both with and without children. Every one of those humans deserves equal treatment under the law. Most of the arguments against SB1 are faith based or cultural. Many citizens our country, and more importantly, our state, are a mix of many nationalities and religious beliefs. Therefore laws and human rights should not be based on any religious beliefs or cultural traditions, but on basic human rights of equality for all. I pray that many years from now we will look back at this time, glad that we, as Hawaiian citizens and leaders, fought and won equal rights for all our neighbors. 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: Brayden Ramos
Kaneohe, HI 96744
redhonu@msn.com

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: Mikee Macadangdang
Waipahu, HI 96797
m.valiente1802@gmail.com

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: Santa Kenchy
Waipahu, HI 96797
kenchy.santa@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Forest Frizzell
Kailua, HI 96734
nahele@secretbonus.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: JOHN MURPHY
wailuku, HI 96793
johnpatrick.murphy@yahoo.com

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 children of same sex couples need the protection of the hawaii family courts. as an attorney for 35 years i have seen many marriages saved and children protected by family law judges. otherwise the children have no independent advocates and must shopfor an attorney willing to file a civil suit. Children suffer enough let's protect them as well as we can. Thanks.

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: Kit Grant
Honolulu, HI 96822
kit@lava.net

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 gay and lesbian couples. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family – gay or straight. SB 1 carefully balances the rights of churches and clergy, while preventing illegal discrimination by government and businesses. It is a good bill, long overdue. 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: Raphaelita Lewis
Waipahu, HI 96797
raph46@hotmail.com

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, Thank you for taking the time out to read this email. I am writing in strong support of SB 1. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Anne Bahn
Honolulu, HI 96826
Anne.bahn1@gmail.com

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From: Alan Cota
Honolulu, HI 96822
alancota@hawaii.edu

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From: Chad Munn
Honolulu, HI 96813
Spurin2000@gmail.com

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From: Ashley Artis
Honolulu, HI 96822
kanani.artis@hotmail.com

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From: Rosana-Bernice Uyeshiro
Honolulu, HI 96822
rosanabernice98@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Joaquin Delgado
Honolulu, HI 96822
e-4_delta@hotmail.com

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From: Joella Speelman
Kahului, HI 96732
joella@gmail.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Rev. Kerry Grogan
Kailua, HI 96734
kerrybgro@gmail.com

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 right to marry the person of our choosing is a civil right, a right that should be offered without regard to sexual orientation. As a clergy person I affirm the right of other pastors to choose whom they will or will not marry. Passing this law will not take away religious freedom. Extending rights to all people, does not infringe on the rights of others. Those religious people opposed to this bill are opposed on the basis of fear and misinformation as well as against it morally. However, the morals of any one particular religion should not get to dictate the law to the state. Discrimination based on morality is still discrimination and should not be the basis for denying civil rights. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person we love. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. Rev. Kerry Grogan

To: Representative Karl Rhoads, Judiciary Committee Chair
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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: Thuy Nguyen
Honolulu, HI 96813
jadewater808@yahoo.com

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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Finance Committee Vice-Chair

From: Steven Pavao
Hilo, HI 96721
Pavaos002@hawaii.rr.com

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From: Brandon Speelman
Kahului, HI 96732
thumperzftw@yahoo.com

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From: Cassandra Matson
Honolulu, HI 96822
cmatson@hawaii.edu

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

From: Yaprak Onat
Honolulu, HI 96815
onat.yaprak@gmail.com

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From: Skyler Sponberg
Kapolei, HI 96707
hexpb1@gmail.com

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From: Jeff Renaud
Honolulu, HI 96818
Jemnz@gmail.com

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From: Colleen Smith
Honolulu, HI 96819
colleencs88@gmail.com

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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: Matt Binder
Kamuela, HI 96743
mattbinder9@gmail.com

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From: Camaron Miyamoto
Honolulu, HI 96816
mrcameron@ao.com

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From: Krista Steinfeld
Kaneohe, HI 96744
kristasteinfeld@gmail.com

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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. The freedom to marry the person you love is a basic freedom that should not be denied to anyone. Gay and lesbian couples get married for similar reasons as everyone else – to make a lifetime promise of love, commitment and fidelity to the person they love. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana – gay or straight – should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. The government should not be in the business of telling people who they can and cannot marry. None of us would want to be told that it is illegal to marry the person 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: Shannon Wianecki
Paia, HI 96779
mousetrap8@hotmail.com

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

Aloha members of the House Committees on Judiciary and Finance, I write in strong support of SB 1. It's very odd that we should punish people for loving one another. But it happens every day in Hawaii when some couples are deprived of rights that other couples have. Their crime? Mutual affection. What a strange thing to persecute. Really, the government should not be in the business of marriage. It's a sacred contract between two individuals. How can civil law dictate its parameters? But until we decouple holy matrimony from secular law, we should at least grant all consenting adults equal rights to legal marriage. Thank you for considering this testimony.

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: Leslie Kornblatt
Puunene, HI 96784
Leslie.kornblatt@gmail.com

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: Christine Lipat
Honolulu, HI 96817
xlipat@gmail.com

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. In Hawaii, we don't turn our backs on family. No member of anyone's ohana - gay or straight - should have to face shame because of who they are and who they love. We shouldn't have to leave our state to have our marriages be recognized. Marriage Equality is an absolute necessity to establish that no class of people may be marginalized by the state and treated like second class citizens. It will also show LGBT-identified youth that the overall LGBT community has such equal protection by the state and that their rights shall be kept unadulterated regardless of their sexual orientation. 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: Akesh Abhilash
Honolulu, HI 96815
aabhilash.2009@law.smu.edu.sg

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

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From: Akesh Abhilash
Honolulu, HI 96815
aabhilash.2009@law.smu.edu.sg

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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: Nicholas Preovolos
Kihei, HI 96753
nikopreo@gmail.com

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 basic principal of equality can not be overlooked and everyone, regardless of race, religion or orientation must be afforded the same rights. It is unconcionable how this is even an issue in our society today and embarrassing that there are people who truly believe that we should not only accept and promote inequality, but legislate it. This issue has only one truth, and that is we are human beings sharing a common world. The basis for most problems in our world come from our differences. One religion thinks it is better than the other, one government thinks it is stronger than the other, but in reality we are all he same. We are all equal in out humanity. We must embrace our difference and learn to accept others for whom they are. Let's not promote and Legislate inequality and I urge you to pass SB 1 so that we may all be treated equally. 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: Angela Boleyn
Pearl City, HI 96782
an_an_boleyn@yahoo.com

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. ***My 16 year old daughter is a lesbian. Her civil rights should not depend on her zip code. All persons, including my child, deserve the same civil rights and legal protections. Extending those rights and protections to her and the LGBT community is not going to diminish those of the religious right, or of anyone else. I think every mother dreams of her daughter's wedding day and I'm no different in that respect. Please pass this bill for my daughter and every LGBT person.*** 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: Margaret Primacio
Kahuku, HI 96731
stibbardm003@hawaii.rr.com

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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: Andrew Dunne
Kula, HI 96790
afd@maui.net

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 extremely strong support of SB 1. We can finally extend full civil rights to ALL members of our society, and not have two classes of citizens based on discriminatory and frankly unconstitutional laws. Please pass this bill to allow for marriage equality for all of Hawaii's families, and to show what Aloha really means. Thank you very much 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: June Dillinger
Honolulu, HI 96816
junedillinger@gmail.com

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