



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411 HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: 586-8636 · FAX: 586-8655 · TDD: 568-8692

Wednesday, April 6, 2022
Via Videoconference, 2:45 p.m.
Conference room 308

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Finance

From: Liann Ebesugawa, Chair
and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: S.B. No. 2670, S.D.1, H.D.1

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to state and state funded services (on the basis of disability). The HCRC carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5.

S.B. No. 2670, S.D. 1, H.D.1, amends the HRS to add a new chapter to establish the Hawai‘i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission, and trust fund. The bill also establishes county committees, appointed by the county mayors, on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus affairs.

The HCRC supports S.B. No. 2670, S.D.1, H.D.1.

The purpose of this chapter to provide for a statewide program, on a permanent and continuing basis, on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus people in Hawai‘i.

The civil rights laws that the HCRC enforces prohibit discrimination based on sex, including gender identity or expression, and sexual orientation in employment (HRS chapter 378, part I), public accommodations (HRS chapter 489), and housing (HRS chapter 515). Indeed, the HCRC’s statutory purpose reads: “**§368-1 Purpose and intent.** The legislature finds and

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

This bill would also require each county to have a committee, appointed by its mayor, that submits a plan and proposal affecting the status of the LGBTQ+ community in the county. The size of the county committees is not addressed.

The HCRC supports S.B. No. 2670, S.D.1, H.D.1.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

April 5, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2670 SD2 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,
TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION.**

Hearing: April 6, 2022, 2:45 p.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure and provides comments. The Department requests that any appropriation not replace or reduce a budget priority identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish the Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus commission. Requires each county mayor to appoint a county committee on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus affairs.

Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD1)

The SD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Deleting language that would have established a Trust Fund;
- (2) Adding a general fund appropriation for the purposes of the Commission; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

The SD2 amended the measure by:

- (1) Adding one member to the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission to represent the Hawaii sexual and gender minority work group of the Department of Health;
- (2) Requiring that the Governor appoint members of the commission that reflect the diversity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community by including individuals from different lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus identities;
- (3) Appropriating an unspecified sum of general funds to the counties to fulfill the State's obligation to share the cost of any new mandated program pursuant to Article VIII, section 5, of the Hawaii State Constitution;
- (4) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to facilitate further discussion on the measure; and
- (5) Making a technical nonsubstantive amendment for purposes of clarity and consistency.

The HD1 further defected the effective date and made technical amendments.

DHS supports and recognizes the commitment and efforts of the different LGBT and LGBTQ advocacy groups, especially around the issues of bullying prevention and equity. The proposal is similar to the statutory framework of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, which has long been successful in promoting and advocating to improve the status of women in Hawaii.

DHS further comments that an appropriation for the executive director and operational expenses are necessary for the proposed Commission to function and implement its statutory mission. Operational expenses are needed as DHS lacks office space, and other equipment (i.e., computers and IT support) is limited or obsolete. In addition to an Executive Director, the Commission will require support staff and travel funds for neighbor island commissioners. Therefore, any appropriation should include general funds for personnel and other expenses to run the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2670, S.D. 2, H.D. 1

April 6, 2022
2:45 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER,
QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2670, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, adds a new chapter to the HRS to:

- 1) establish the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission (Commission) within the Department of Human Services (DHS); 2) set parameters for the Commission's membership and appointments; 3) authorize the appointment of an Executive Director to be exempt from civil service; 4) outline the powers and duties of the Commission; 5) require each county to establish a county committee on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus affairs (County Committee); and 6) set membership guidelines and duties for the County Committees.

The bill also appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to DHS in FY 23 for the Commission and an unspecified amount of general funds, with matching funds requirements, to the counties in FY 23 for the establishment of County Committees.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriations in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

**STONEWALL
CAUCUS**

FORMED IN 2001



THE FIRST CAUCUS OF THE
**DEMOCRATIC PARTY
OF HAWAII**

April 5, 2022

House's Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, March 6, 2022 at 2:45 PM

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2670 SD 2 HD 1**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita and fellow committee members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2670 SD 2 on behalf of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii (formerly LGBT Caucus), Hawaii's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization. SB 2670 will establish the Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus (LGBTQ+) commission and the Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus commission trust fund. Requires each county mayor to appoint a county committee on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus affairs.

It has been 8 years, 4 months & 3 days since Marriage Equality became the law of the land here in the Aloha State, while that was a huge milestone for Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community we have a lot more work to do to ensure Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community has full equality at every level government and society. We also need to remain vigilant to ensure there is no back sliding for all of the advancements we have made to the lofty goal of equality.

Even with all of the advances we have made here are just some of the difficulties facing Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community:

- LGBTQIA+ suicide rates are 3 to 4 times than that of their straight and/or cisgender peers
- 85% of LGBTQIA+ students have experienced verbal harassment
- When the State of Hawaii's Department of Health did do a study for Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community they only included lesbians, gays and bisexuals
- There is no federal law protecting employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression in the United States.
- Homophobia and transphobia are the most publicly accepted forms of bigotry, harassment and discrimination
- 80% of the transgender population who were employed experienced harassment or mistreatment on the job or took steps to avoid it
- When it comes to statistics about Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community we have to rely on studies done on the continent or Europe
- When the State of Hawaii's Department of Health did do a study for Hawaii's LGBTQIA+ community they only included lesbians, gays and bisexuals

The Stonewall Caucus understands that even when the Commission is established the Commission alone will not be able to solve all of these problems facing Hawaii's LGBTQIA+

Stonewall Caucus Testimony is Strong Support of Senate Bill 2670 SD 2 HD 1

community. But just imagine having a Commission, with commissioners from every county, working with other community stakeholders and the ex-officio members representing the Department of Education, University of Hawai'i, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Department of Human Services, Department of Human Resources Development, and Department of Health can do to start to address these and other difficulties facing Hawai'i's LGBTQIA+ community.

For all these reasons the Stonewall Caucus humbly asks that you support SB 2670 as it is the right thing to do.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair and SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH



**Where LGBTQIA+ Rights Meet the Labor Movement
A constituency group of the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO**

April 5, 2022

House's Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 2:45 PM

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2670 SD 2 HD 1

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita and fellow committee members,

Pride at Work – Hawai'i is an official chapter of *Pride at Work* which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. We are an officially recognized constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBTQIA+ Community to further social and economic justice.

With all the advances that the LGBTQIA+ community has made there is still a lot of work left to be done.

This commission will help to keep the gains we have made while working to ensure everyone in Hawai'i's diverse LGBTQIA+ community are treated equally and fairly from the playground to the boardroom and every place in-between.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i humbly asks that you support SB 2670 SD 2 HD 1.

In solidarity,

Pride at Work – Hawai'i

SB-2670-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 12:42:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 strongly supports SB2670. Our LGBTQ+ community needs a Commission to insure equality in all aspects of the community. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

Mike Golojuch, Sr. Secretary/Board Member, Rainbow Family 808



5 April 2022

Members of the House Committee on Finance:

As an emerging grassroots network striving to bring people together across Oahu's north and windward shores to ensure that the region that we call home is welcoming, inclusive, and supportive of **LGBTQ+** individuals, the **North Shore Ko'olau Diversity Collective** offers its **Strong Support** of **SB2670 SD2, HD1**.

As the text of the bill makes clear, there is a need to establish a body to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community, identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.

As a region without legislative allies or advocates, and in which the needs, concerns, and voices of the LGBTQ+ community are still often rendered-invisible, overlooked, and ignored, the establishment of a Hawaii State LGBTQ+ Commission would offer hope and help toward a better present and future for us, our families, friends, and allies and for all in the islands.

Wherever and whenever decisions are being made, nothing about us without us.

Thank you for your attention and leadership on these concerns,

*Joe Wilson, Liz Rago, Michelle Johnson Blimes,
Hao Le, Bethany Berry-Weiss, Kunane Dreier, Torrey Lock*

Organizing Committee
nskdcollective@zohomail.com

nskdiversitycollective.com



Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

888 Mililani Street, Suite 501 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 597-1441
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The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Hawai'i State House of Representatives
Committee on Finance

Testimony by
Hawai'i State AFL-CIO
April 6, 2022

S.B. 2670 S.D. 2, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO
THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY,
BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER,
PLUS COMMISSION.

The Hawai'i State AFL-CIO is a state federation of 74 affiliate local unions and councils with over 68,000 members across both public and private sectors. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in **support** of S.B. 2670 S.D. 2, H.D. 1.

We stand in solidarity with Pride at Work Hawai'i because LGBTQIA+ rights are labor rights. We support equity for the LGBTQIA+ community whose needs tend to be unknown and even marginalized. Establishing a commission to identify and address the needs of this underserved community will further advance the strides this legislature has already made to ensure equity.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of our testimony and comments on S.B. 2670 S.D. 2, H.D. 1.

RP/dd

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, April 6, 2022
2:45 PM
Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

in consideration of
SB 2670, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION.

Chair LUKE, Vice Chair YAMASHITA, and Members of the House Finance Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2670, SD2, HD1, which (1) establishes the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission and (2) requires each county mayor to appoint a county committee on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus affairs.

Common Cause Hawaii is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to reforming government and strengthening our representative democracy - one that works for everyone and not just the special, monied interests.

Common Cause Hawaii understands that the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus community is at an elevated risk of societal inequality and disadvantage through bullying and ostracism. Understanding how to address and remedy this inequality and disadvantage will lead to a more successful democratic society and effective democratic government, which is the effect of SB 2670, SD2, HD1. The Commission will reduce barriers that have made it more difficult for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus community to participate in our democracy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2670, SD2, HD1. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



Aloha for All is Good Business

April 5, 2022

RE: STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2670 SD2 HD1: Relating to the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission

Dear Chair Luke and Committee Members,

The Hawaii Rainbow Chamber of Commerce stands in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2670 SD2 HD1.

The Hawaii Rainbow Chamber of Commerce has as part of its mission to advocate for the LGBTQ+ population in advancing equality for all. Membership is open to all businesses, nonprofits, individuals and government agencies that share in the mission. The Chamber recognizes that the LGBTQ+ community has faced incredible historic discrimination that continues to this day, even as we work to overcome its many manifestations in social, economic and health disparities for simply being who they are.

Unfortunately, as we have seen across many states, 2021 and 2022 have been lamentably historic years for bigoted anti-LGBTQ+ proposed legislation across the country. The animus is still very present and old hatreds seemingly have been given new life these past few years in many states across the country. Ugly bills targeting LGBTQ+ youth with so-called "bathroom bills" or "don't say gay" bills which forbid teachers to discuss even the phrase "LGBTQ+" or provide even basic civil rights history of the community have been introduced nationwide. The effect on the youth in the nation where these bills are introduced are particularly devastating for younger people who continue to be surrounded by this bigotry. It is difficult enough as an adult to weather these attacks on one's very humanity, and the pain of being officially marginalized, bullied by a school system or a state, and even mentioning of reality is forbidden. Fortunately, Hawaii is not in this group of states and embraces humans for who they are, but we still have much work to do despite a better climate here for LGBTQ+ individuals.

And while the acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community has been growing steadily, even if not uniformly and with setbacks, the community itself is growing as our society opens, particularly amongst younger people, where perhaps 1 in 4 may identify as part of this LGBTQ+. There is still an enormous way to go for acceptance and normalization of the LGBTQ+ population in general, and the knowledge of where this group is adversely impacted economically, physically, socially, and other metrics of life are still not gathered in a coherent manner to uncover and address issues unique to this community. If this group were only 5-10% of the state population, that would be 75,000 - 150,000 people or so, who have lived a lifetime of various degrees of harassment, discrimination and marginalization. But we can assume from polls and self-identification that these numbers are much lower than reality and will certainly be growing based on trends we see as people choose to live authentically and with less fear and stigma. We can and must do better as a society and a state, and Bill 2670 SD2 HD1 will help in this.

We know that the LGBTQ+ population experiences higher rates of various health issues, already addressed by testimony from the Department of Health and others, but troublingly includes higher homelessness amongst adults and youth, with perhaps 45% of homeless youth self-identifying as LGBTQ+. This group, in part because of marginalization, discrimination and often lack of family support is also unfortunately over-represented in many areas such as rates of tobacco use, substance abuse, suicide, poverty, and violence.

330 Saratoga Road #88768, Honolulu, Hawaii 96830 info@HiRainbowChamber.org (808) 454-3370

www.HiRainbowChamber.org



Aloha for All is Good Business

Traditionally shut out from many economic opportunities, including even opportunities in governmental work like teaching or areas requiring security clearances which were automatically disqualifying for self-identified or identified in background checks as members of this LGBTQ+ community, many did not otherwise enjoy the same types of educational, work and career opportunities that the rest of society had, leading to a lifetime of lower income and increased poverty in older age. The inability to have the stability and many benefits of marriage were also denied LGBTQ+ people until very recently, even in Hawaii, which further contributed to conditions that worsened economic and social security systems for LGBTQ+ adults, especially seniors.

Of course, many other areas exist where the needs of the LGBTQ+ community must be addressed if we are to advance all in our society and work towards ending discrimination, marginalization and lower socio-economic conditions for members of the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and/or Expression (SOGIE) minority community, and Bill SB2670 SD2 HD1 is a major step in the right direction.

Fortunately, in Hawaii and other more advanced, fair-minded states and nations, there is a general belief in advancing all of its residents. An important element to do so for the LGBTQ+ population is addressed in SB2670 SD2 HD1 by creating and LGBTQ+ Commission and trust fund to help identify ways in which we can help this historically marginalized population which cuts across all ethnicities, ages, religions, political beliefs, and other conditions. Simply put, we need to know what we don't know so that we can focus our efforts for best effects.

There currently exists no effective governmental means in Hawaii of researching, planning, or advocating for the equity of the LGBTQ+ population with regards to state or county governments on an ad-hoc or continuing basis, and this bill is a critical factor in changing that current and ongoing need. Acting as a central clearinghouse and coordinating body for information relating to the status of the LGBTQ+ community in the state, creating positive public awareness and understanding of the LGBTQ+ community and its needs can only serve to better not only individuals in the community, but in turn, the entire society at large. Importantly, this bill also envisions a main role for each county to work on these issues as well, which is critical in an island state such as ours.

This Commission as envisioned will be in a position to recommend studies, legislative and administrative action, and education vital for achieving equity in society. The important larger community and intergovernmental outreach aspects to collaborate and cooperate on the issues facing the LGBTQ+ population are a vital component of this bill as well. As envisioned, the Commission would benefit from and share in learning from other cities, states, nations and other agencies to advance our common humanity and creation of a better state for LGBTQ+ residents of Hawaii. In doing so, we also set Hawaii as a role model in this regard to shine a light as a beacon of hope for others in the nation and world. We applaud the Equality Caucus and members who recognize the need for this Commission and ask for your support in advancing this worthy legislation.

For these and many other reasons, we wholeheartedly and STRONGLY SUPPORT Bill 2670 SD2 HD1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify,

Winston Welch
President
Hawaii Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

330 Saratoga Road #88768, Honolulu, Hawaii 96830 info@HiRainbowChamber.org (808) 454-3370

www.HiRainbowChamber.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2670 SD2 HD1

TO: Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, & Members – House Committee on Finance
FROM: Trisha Kajimura
Deputy Director - Community
DATE: April 6, 2022 at 2:45 PM

Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHRC) **supports** SB 2670 SD2 HD1, which establishes the Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus (LGBTQ+) commission, county committees and makes an appropriation.

HHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawaii and the Pacific. We work with many individuals who are adversely impacted by poverty, housing instability, discrimination, healthcare inequity and other social determinants of health. HHRC's roots are in the LGBTQ+ community with a transgender health program, an LGBTQ+-specific smoking cessation program and more than 500 participants of other programs who identify as LGBTQ+. One of our biggest lessons learned over the past 30 years is the importance of hiring and engaging with people who identify as LGBTQ+ to ensure that all decisions, programs and policies are inclusive and reflective of the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community.

The Hawaii State Department Health was the first health department in the country to publish both a sexual and gender minority health report (2017) and a follow-up report which focused on transgender youth (2018). These reports and the resulting Sexual and Gender Minority Work Group have highlighted the need for a statewide comprehensive strategy for our LGBTQ+ community to address related health disparities and social inequities in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

SB-2670-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 2:33:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camaron Miyamoto	LGBT Student Services, UH Manoa	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2670 SD2, which would establish an LGBTQ+ Commission within the State.

My testimony does not represent the official opinion of the university but it represents my professional opinion informed by over two decades working to meet the needs of LGBTQ+ students and communities in Hawai'i.

This measure is necessary to address the specific needs and disparities among LGBTQ+ communities in Hawai'i. Data from the Department of Health shows poorer health outcomes among these communities. As made clear by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, health disparities in any communities lead to strains on healthcare systems, social networks, and economic infrastructure.

This measure is a proactive step for inclusion that will better equip the State of Hawai'i to meet the needs of all of its residents, regardless of one's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Thank you for your consideration,

Camaron Miyamoto, Director LGBTQ+ Center

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB-2670-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 4:07:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Mikhail	The Lavender Clinic	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing on behalf of The Lavender Clinic in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2670 SD2, which would establish an LGBTQ+ Commission within the State.

This measure is necessary to address the specific needs and disparities among LGBTQ+ communities (Sexual and Gender Minorities) in Hawai'i. Data from the Department of Health shows poorer health outcomes among these communities. As made clear by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, health disparities in any communities lead to strains on healthcare systems, social networks, and economic infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration.



HAWAII

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS	DIRECTORS		MAILING ADDRESS	
John Bickel, President	Melodie Aduja	Jan Lubin	Bill South	P.O. Box 23404
Alan Burdick, Vice President	Keola Akana	John Miller	Zahava Zaidoff	Honolulu
Dave Nagajji, Treasurer	Juliet Begley	Jenny Nomura		Hawaii 96823
Doug Pyle, Secretary	Stephanie Fitzpatrick	Stephen O'Harrow		

April 5, 2022

TO: Chair Luke and Members of the FIN Committee

RE: SB 2670 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION.

Support for hearing on April 6

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support this bill as it would establish a commission for the LGBTQ+ community. We agree with the preface of the bill that the State needs to improve its interface with members of the lesbian gay bisexual transgender queer plus community. This bill would identify the short—and long-range needs of its members and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel, President

IATSE LOCAL 665

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The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Hawai'i State House of Representatives
Committee on Finance

Testimony by
IATSE Local 665
April 5th, 2022

**S.B. 2670 SD 2 HD 1 - RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY,
BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION.**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee,

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, President of IATSE Local 665. Local 665 represents Entertainment Technicians in Stagecraft, Tradeshow & Conventions, and Film/TV industries across the State of Hawaii. **We submit this testimony in strong support of S.B. 2670 SD 2 HD 1.**

I am a cisgender heterosexual man. Because of this, I have a certain amount of privilege in my life. I have never been discriminated against because of who I love or because of my gender identity. For those of us who have been born with this and other similar types of privilege, we must use our privilege to uplift the people around us who have been unfairly prevented from gaining a seat at the table. LGBTQ+ folx are our relatives, our co-workers, our friends, and our neighbors. The issues and challenges that our LGBTQ+ ohana face and overcome daily are unique to their lived experience(s). The formation of a commission that is representative of the LGBTQ+ community is not only necessary, it's long overdue.

There is still so much work left to be done to ensure safety, equity, inclusion, and justice for Hawai'i's LGBTQ+ community. Just last week, the governor of Florida signed into law what is colloquially referred to as the "Don't Say Gay" bill, which is an affront to human rights. It is well documented that anti-LGBT laws have disastrous effects on LGBTQ+ folx, specifically LGBTQ+ youth, who continue to suffer higher health and suicide risks than their cis/het peers. We can and must make every effort to loudly reaffirm to our LGBTQ+ ohana that their voices are valued, that their struggles deserve attention and healing, and that they belong. A simple and achievable first step is to empower their voices through the creation of the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ commission.

It is for these reasons that **we strongly support S.B. 2670 SD 2 HD 1**. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tuia'ana Scanlan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Tuia'ana Scanlan
President, IATSE Local 665
he/him/his

SB-2670-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 12:52:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maddalynn Seseapasara	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

Establishes the Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus commission. Requires each county mayor to appoint a county committee on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus affairs. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD1)

Please support this bill, I fully stand behind this and highly encourage you all to do the same please.

Mahalo,

MADDALYNN SESEPASARA

SB-2670-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 1:37:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
luke kaili	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and HHH Committee Members,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2670 SD2 which would establish an LGBTQ+ Commission within the State.

Respectfully,

Luke Kaili

Aloha members of the finance committee,

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2670 SD2, which would establish an LGBTQ+ Commission within the State.

This measure is necessary to address the specific needs and disparities among LGBTQ+ communities in Hawai'i. Data from the Department of Health shows poorer health outcomes among these communities. As made clear by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, health disparities in any communities lead to strains on healthcare systems, social networks, and economic infrastructure. The time to act is now!

Mahalo!

Linda Kim, APRN

SB-2670-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 1:45:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanna Zoey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Breanna Zoey, my pronouns are she/they, and I am a transgender resident of Hawaii. I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2670 SD2, which would establish an LGBTQ+ Commission within the State.

This measure is necessary to help address the specific needs and disparities among LGBTQ+ communities in Hawai'i. Data from the Department of Health shows poorer health outcomes among these communities. As made clear by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, health disparities in any communities lead to strains on healthcare systems, social networks, and economic infrastructure. In my opinion, there is no reason why anyone should oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Breanna Zoey (she/they)

SB-2670-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 2:28:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Rosenbach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2670 SD2, which would establish an LGBTQ+ Commission within the State.

This measure is necessary to address the specific needs and disparities among LGBTQ+ communities in Hawai'i. Data from the Department of Health shows poorer health outcomes among these communities. As made clear by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, health disparities in any communities lead to strains on healthcare systems, social networks, and economic infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sarah Rosenbach

SB-2670-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 4:06:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn M Golojuch	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Greetings Chair and Committee members,

Thank you for hearing SB2670 SD2 HD1 for the establishment of a long awaited call for justice in Civil Rights for our LGBTIA children with a Commission to address the continuing prejudice, discrimination of our children.

Rainbow Family 808 is a non-profit organization to support, advocate for and educate the public on the Civil Rights of minority groups. Today I bring our STRONG SUPPORT for SB2670 SD2 HD1.

Civil Rights has been my personal goal since 1995 when my son Came Out to our family. January 1996 marks the day that I stood up in the Capitol Auditorium for my son and friends. This Commission is needed to establish an equitable state in the line with the Women's Caucus. The Women's Cause was debated and now everyone looks to that caucus for direction to continue to provide Women with Civil Rights in the workplace, in education and more.

This is what we're asking for now. Today's world has people holding on to old prejudices and their efforts to harm this community; deny them equal access to jobs, careers, medical care and more.

Justice delayed is justice denied. Please pass SB2670 SD2 HD1 today with a June 2022 establishment date.

Signed President Carolyn Martinez - Rainbow Family 808

SB-2670-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 5:13:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, & Finance Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of SB 2670, SD 2, HD 1, which establishes the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission and requires each county mayor to appoint a county committee on the status of LGBTQ+ affairs.

This bill is necessary to help ensure that the specific needs and concerns of Hawaii's sexual and gender minority (SGM) communities are heard at the state level and in every county.

SGMs have unique needs and concerns that cannot be adequately met by existing commissions like the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women or the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. SGMs remain underrepresented at every level of government in Hawaii and in its learned professions. SGMs are disproportionately impacted by social determinants of health and are more likely than cisgender heterosexual persons to have some level of involvement with the criminal legal system.

The needs of SGMs have been shortchanged, ignored, or derided in policymaking circles for most of this state's history. Policies that impact SGM health, education, economic status, family life, and civic participation should be regularly and formally evaluated by members of this state's SGM community.

Across state and local governments there is no consistent dedication to the collection and dissemination of SGM data to inform government policies and practices. The proposed commission is an invaluable mechanism to ensure that SGM voices are heard in every facet of public life in Hawaii. Its functions cannot be outsourced to groups that are dominated by those of cisgender and heterosexual experience.

On a related note, it's also deeply unfortunate that neither major political party in Hawaii has forwarded internal mechanisms or policies to invite, much less require, adequate levels of participation of SGMs. Other states, including those that have conservative governing majorities, have integrated SGMs more fully into public life. Hopefully, Hawaii will soon join them.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-2670-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 6:49:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Robinson-Onderko	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support for SB2670 SD2 HD1. The LGBTQIA+ community is underrepresented and underserved in our state. A LGBTQIA+ commission will help to protect and expand rights for some of our most vulnerable in our state.

I humbly ask that you vote in favor of this measure.

Mahalo nui, Lynn Robinson-Onderko (Ewa Beach)

SB-2670-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 9:58:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2670, which would establish an LGBTQ+ Commission within the State.

This measure is necessary to address the specific needs and disparities among LGBTQ+ communities in Hawai'i. Data from the Department of Health shows poorer health outcomes among these communities. As made clear by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, health disparities in any communities lead to strains on healthcare systems, social networks, and economic infrastructure. Working with this population for several years it is clearly a critical need for our state.

SB-2670-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 8:16:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Kogl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of this measure. Mahalo :)

DANETTE KONG
Kula, Maui, HI 96790
danettekong@gmail.com

April 6, 2022

IN SUPPORT OF SB2670 SD2 HD1

Aloha, honorable members of the Legislature –

Please consider my STRONG SUPPORT of this bill, and allow me to tell you why.

Throughout my childhood and adult life, I observed one of my beautiful sisters struggle with her sexual identity and the response of the wider community. She endured horrific emotional and physical experiences as she, first, lived silently in acquiescence to religious and cultural mores as the daughter of a prominent Southern Baptist minister. In the 1970s she courageously began to live openly as LGBT, providing our family with a valuable window of understanding and dialogue. Within the past decade, she has been able to understand more fully that she is transgender, which makes complete sense in the context of my knowing her since her birth.

During the 1980s I was the hospital chaplain to many patients with HIV and AIDS. Their life stories underscored what I had already learned from my sister. In 2009-2010 I was interim choral director for The Honolulu Men's Chorus (precursor to the current Gay Men's Chorus of Honolulu), when the passage of the Civil Unions bill was a hot topic. Through all these experiences, I cannot begin to tell you the level of heartbreak, terror, anxiety, and stress I have seen, felt, and heard expressed by the LGBT community. IT IS VERY REAL, and much to my dismay, it has not gone away.

As we are seeing in today's society, there is a resurgence of violence toward LGBTs, and active efforts to deny them their civil rights. We see it in the way some states are enacting laws which prohibit schoolteachers from verbally acknowledging the legitimacy of same-gender parents within the classroom. We see it in how transgenders are intimidated from using appropriate restroom facilities. We see it in efforts to criminalize the ability of providers and parents to make counseling and medical treatment available to transgender children. We hear it in offensive, crude jokes being made by politicians in the public arena. ALL OF THIS gives unspoken permission for some people in our society to mistreat LGBT citizens as "less than," or even, to assault them further with words, actions, and unjust laws.

The establishment of a commission to address the needs and issues facing our LGBT population speaks volumes to saying we recognize them as a very vital part of our community, we recognize their continued vulnerability, and that we resolve to prevent them from being further abused. It can be a beacon of HOPE, not only for the LGBT population, but for all of us who love our Hawai'i. Please establish this commission without delay.

Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration of this bill –
(The Rev.) Danette Kong, retired health care and hospice chaplain
United Church of Christ