

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony COMMENTING on SB2670, SD 2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,
TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION.

THE HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN K. TAM, VICE CHAIR

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date: Mar. 15, 2022

Room Number: VIA
VIDEOCONFERENCE

1 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (Department) offers COMMENTS
2 supporting the intent of this Measure for the following reasons:

3 **Department Testimony:**

4 Thank you for the opportunity to offer COMMENTS supporting the intent of SB2670, SD2,
5 provided that it does not impact the Governor's executive budget. This measure would establish
6 a Hawaii state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus (LGBTQ+) commission; permit
7 each county mayor to appoint a county committee on the status of LGBTQ+ affairs; and makes
8 an appropriation funding the commission activities.

9 This bill is important because it supports equity for the LGBTQ+ community, many of whom are
10 vulnerable and whose needs are unknown, overlooked, or discriminated against. The "Hawai'i
11 Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report" (2017

12 <https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2017/05/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthRep>

1 [ort.pdf](#) and 2018
2 <https://health.hawaii.gov/surveillance/files/2018/09/HawaiiSexualandGenderMinorityHealthRep>
3 [ort2018.pdf](#)) presented data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, showing that Hawaii
4 LGBTQ+ youth are disproportionately affected by suicidality, depression, anxiety and other
5 deleterious health outcomes due to discrimination, harassment and violence as a result of
6 homophobia and transphobia. Advancing equity for LGBTQ+ people through the formation of
7 the LGBTQ+ commission is an important step in continuing to gather information and
8 decreasing stigmatization, oppression, and other minority stressors that LGBTQ+ people in our
9 communities face. Similar commissions in other states (e.g., Washington, Massachusetts) have
10 shown success in addressing the needs of this community.

11 For these reasons, the Department supports the intent of SB2670, SD2 which will create a
12 commission of state and county employees devoted to addressing the needs of the LGBTQ+
13 community, thereby increasing equality and decreasing stigma, which can lead to improvements
14 in LGBTQ+ mental health.

15 **Offered Amendments:** None.

16 **Fiscal Implications:** None for DOH.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

March 13, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

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

Hearing: March 15, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure, suggests a friendly amendment to correct a typographical error, 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 (LGBTQ+) Commission. Requires each county mayor to appoint a county committee on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus affairs. Makes an appropriation. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2).

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.

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 women's status in Hawaii.

DHS suggests a friendly amendment to correct a typographical error in Section 1, (b)(2) on page 3, line 11, as follows:

- (2) Eight voting members who shall be appointed by the governor in accordance with section 26-34; provided that of these ~~seven~~ eight members:
 - (A) One member shall be from the county of Hawaii;
 - (B) One member shall be from the county of Kauai;
 - (C) One member shall be from the county of Maui;
 - (D) Four members shall be from the city and county of Honolulu; and
 - (E) One member shall represent the Hawaii sexual and gender minority work group of the Department of health.

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.

**STONEWALL
CAUCUS**

FORMED IN 2001



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

March 11, 2022

House's Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

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

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Tam 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 since we passed Marriage Equality 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

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

SB-2670-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 6:13:28 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

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

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 strongly supports SB2670. Please pass this bill. It is long overdue. Thank you.

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



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

March 11, 2022

House's Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2670 SD 2

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Tam 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 Hawaii'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.

In solidarity,

Pride at Work – Hawai'i



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2670 SD2

TO: Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, & Members – House Committee on Health,
Human Services and Homelessness

FROM: Trisha Kajimura
Deputy Director - Community

DATE: March 15, 2022 at 9:00 AM

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

HHHRC's mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i 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. HHHRC'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-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 5:54:07 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
(Rev.) Cloudia Charters	Healing Ministry	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha greetings! I'm strongly in favor of this bill based on my 30 years serving the people of Hawaii from every community. More information and participation in our government is a netgood for everyone! There is no fair-minded reason to oppose this bill. Mahalo for your consideration and for all that you do every day.

Most Sincerely, Reverend Cloudia Charters

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

9:00 AM

Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

in consideration of

SB 2670, SD2**RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION.**Chair YAMANE, Vice Chair TAM, and Members of the
House Health, Human Services, & Homelessness Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2670, SD2, 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. 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 testify in support of SB 2670, SD2. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii

SB-2670-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 8:44:17 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Galacgac	AF3IRM Hawaii	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.

To meet the urgent needs of our local communities, please amend the effective data from "7/1/2050" to "7/1/2022".

Thank you for your consideration.

Statement Before The
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

9:00 AM

Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

in consideration of

SB 2670, SD2**RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION.**Chair YAMANE, Vice Chair TAM, and Members of the
House Health, Human Services, & Homelessness Committee

Common Cause Hawaii supports SB 2670, SD2, 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. 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 testify in support of SB 2670, SD2. If you have further questions of me, please contact me at sma@commoncause.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma
Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

OFFICERS

John Bickel, President
Alan Burdick, Vice President
Dave Nagajji, Treasurer
Doug Pyle, Secretary

DIRECTORS

Melodie Aduja
Keola Akana
Juliet Begley
Stephanie Fitzpatrick
Jan Lubin
John Miller
Jenny Nomura
Stephen O'Harrow

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 23404
Honolulu
Hawaii 96823

March 13, 2022

TO: Chairs Dela Cruz and Members of the WAM Committees

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

Support for hearing on March 15

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

SB-2670-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 3:28:04 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Enought Bull Shit !!

SB-2670-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 3:16:41 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra Chou	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is important to create this commission so LGBTQ+ voices are heard

SB-2670-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2022 11:57:51 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Godbey Carson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to assist in gaining equality for our LGBTQ community. Having a commissioni helps bring expertise, attention and best practices to how we as a community can better help protect and support equality for LGBTQ.

SB-2670-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 1:29:51 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH
1177 Queen St. #2707 Honolulu, HI, 96814
March 13, 2022

Hawai'i State Legislature Re: Testimony in Support of SB2670 SD2

Aloha Members of the Hawai'i State Health, Human Services, and Homelessness Committee,

I am a child, adolescent, and adult psychiatrist on O'ahu writing in support of this measure to establish the HI LGBTQ+ Commission, with recommendation that the date in Section 4 be updated to July 1 2022.

As the state with the highest number of gender diverse individuals, this will ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration in protecting the health and welfare of all of your constituents.

Jaime Stevens, MD, MPH, FAPA

SB-2670-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2022 6:37:10 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zahava Zaidoff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee members,

My name is Zahava Zaidoff and I live in Ka'u district on Hawaii island. I stand in strong support of this bill.

The statistics are staggering. The reality is almost more terrifying. The LGBTQIA+ community is being attacked from all sides. As the parent of a genderqueer teenager, I can tell you that I am afraid for their life. Suicide rates are up to 10 times higher for the LGBTQIA+ community and as you know, representation is much lower.

As not only an advocate, but as a parent, I asked you to show my child and the thousands like them that they matter. Representation matters.

Establishing this commission will help the state and the counties to be aware of what the needs of our community actually are, so that we can begin to meet them.

Mahalo for passing this bill and for showing the LGBTQIA+ community that they matter.

SB-2670-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2022 7:03:03 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

As a public health professional and concerned community member, 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.

To meet the urgent needs of our local communities, please amend the effective date from "7/1/2050" to "7/1/2022".

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

SB-2670-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 2:34:11 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikki-Ann Yee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB2670 SD2. This measure to establish an LGBTQ+ Commission within the State is necessary to address the specific needs and disparities among LGBTQ+ communities in Hawai'i. Data from the Department of Health show poorer health outcomes among these communities. As made clear by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, health disparities in any community lead to strains on healthcare systems, social networks, and economic infrastructure.

To meet the urgent needs of our local communities, please amend the effective date from "7/1/2050" to "7/1/2022".

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration!

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 HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES,
& HOMELESSNESS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2670, S.D. 2

March 15, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Room 329 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, adds a new chapter to the HRS to: 1) establish the Hawaii 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:

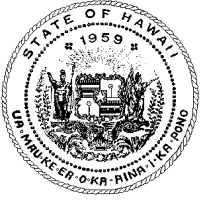
- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support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



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

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

Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference and Room 329

To: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness

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

Re: S.B. No. 2670, S.D.2

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, amends the HRS to add a new chapter to establish the Hawai‘i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus Commission. 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.2.

The purpose of this chapter is 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.2.



NORTH SHORE KO'OLAU DIVERSITY COLLECTIVE

14 March 2022

House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness:

As an emerging grassroots network bringing 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**.

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 overlooked, ignored, and rendered invisible, the establishment of a Hawaii State LGBTQ+ Commission would offer hope and help toward a better present and future for us and for all in the islands.

To meet the urgent needs of our local communities, please amend the effective date from "7/1/2050" to "7/1/2022."

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

SB-2670-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 4:09:04 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Ann Shirota	ACLU of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam and Committee Members:

The ACLU of Hawai'i submits testimony in support of SB2670 SD2 which establishes the Hawai'i state lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus (LGBTQ+) commission, county committees and makes an appropriation.

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions, including equal protection under the law.

The ACLU works to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people can live openly without discrimination and enjoy equal rights, personal autonomy, and freedom of expression and association.

Across the United States, state lawmakers have introduced a record number of 280 anti-trans bills aimed at trans youth in a coordinated attack—from banning gender-affirming health care to participation in sports. State legislators have also introduced 71 bills across 22 states that would restrict discussions about race, gender, and sexual orientation in the classroom.

At the same time, politicians and school boards are moving to ban books from public schools and libraries—predominantly those by Black and LGBTQ authors that discuss race, gender, and sexual orientation.

Given these ongoing attacks and discrimination, the ACLU of Hawai'i strongly supports the creation of this commission to ensure that people who identify as LGBTQ+ are included as stakeholders in decisions, programs and policies that directly impact their lives, and to ultimately advance equity for the LGBTQ+ community.

We respectfully request the following amendments to strengthen this bill:

1. Commission members should reflect the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community by being inclusive of people from different LGBTQ + identifies
2. At least one member should represent the Hawai'i Sexual and Gender Minority Work group

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure with the suggested amendments.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shirota

ACLU of Hawai'i Policy Director

SB-2670-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 9:52:29 AM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shalani Placencia	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.

To meet the urgent needs of our local communities, please amend the effective data from "7/1/2050" to "7/1/2022".

Thank you for your consideration.

Shalani Placencia

SB-2670-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 4:42:16 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, & Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of SB 2670, SD 2, 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 government 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-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 9:21:52 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and committee,

I write you all in support of SB 2670 which establishes the Hawaii State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission. It also requires each county mayor to appoint a county committee on the status of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus affairs.

These county committees and the state committee will help to establish more permanent opportunities to display LGBTQ+ concerns and share them for community members and government officials. The state committee will allow members access to and input from a multitude of important government focal points; labor, education, higher education, health, human resources development, and human services. Hawai'i is made of up of a diverse population and it will be best served by the public input of our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer community members via these committees. Please support SB 2670.

Best wishes,

Chris Edwards

SB-2670-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2022 11:05:55 PM

Testimony for HHH on 3/15/2022 9:00:44 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Esmond	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I am testifying, on behalf of myself, as an individual, in strong **support** of S.B.2670,RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, PLUS COMMISSION.

The last time I submitted testimony to the Legislature was 9 years ago, relating to equal rights in Hawaii for marriage equality. The world has not ended and I am now a gay married father of 3 young children (2 of whom have actually been state champions in their chosen sport for their age, as of this past weekend). I am also a small business owner and I am a Commissioner on the Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood (nominated and confirmed with the intent of being the first ‘openly gay’ Commissioner). I have had zero involvement whatsoever, in the pursuit to set up this new Commission, until this testimony.

I would like to highlight two related situations that every LGBTQ+ person and the people in their lives go through:

- The process of coming out by the LGBTQ+ person
- The process of dealing with this coming out by their family members, caregivers, friends, teachers, coworkers, role models and other colleagues

Even in 2022, coming out is still not easy for everyone, and especially for children. However, all of the people mentioned above need support, as well as information and education on how to support each other. On a personal level, I would also point out that disparaging attitudes from the parents of class- and team-mates of my children can also be harmful, without opportunities for more awareness.

In my roles as a gay father and Commissioner of the Hawaii State Commission on Fatherhood, I think about how other states approach this population with the concept that if you don’t say the words of what they are, then such people don’t exist. That is simply not true. I commend Hawaii for pursuing such a Commission, whose powers and duties can certainly lead to support for the LGBTQ+ community, especially children.

I respectfully urge you to pass S.B.2670.

Jeff Esmond

