

## karamatsu3-Leanne

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**From:** janna plant [jcelinap@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2009 12:15 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** Judiciary Committee - Civil Unions Bill HB 444

Aloha-

I write today in favor of HB 444 the Civil Unions Bill currently being heard before the Judiciary Committee. As a resident of the North Shore and member of Unite Here Local 5, I am aware that some of my friends and neighbors who vote in every election and work hard every day are not granted the same civil rights as me. It is time that the state of Hawai'i recognize that this bill will grant fundamental human rights to a segment of the population that has long struggled to participate fully in our democracy. Please pass HB 444 out of your committee and give it your full support.

Mahalo!

Janna Plant

P.O. Box 609

Haleiwa, HI 96712

808.428.1062

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**Date: February 1, 2009**

**To: House Committee on Judiciary  
Representative John Riki Karamatsu, Chair  
Representative Ken Ito, Vice-Chair**

**Re: STRONG OPPOSITION TO HB 444, Relating to Civil Unions**

The House Committee on Judiciary should oppose HB 444, Relating to Civil Unions or Same Sex Marriage. By moving into this arena, Hawaii will open a whole new can of problems, costing tax payers millions.

**Beth Israel Ministries - Rabbi Daniel Vargas, President**  
**Hawaii Dream Service Center - Constantine Nightingdale**  
**Good News Jail & Prison Ministry - Dennis Yokota, Executive Director**  
**Operation Christmas Child / Franklin & Billy Graham Ministries - Rebecca Woodland, Hawaii Director**  
**Chuck Colsen's Angel Tree - Kelly Joy Akiu, Hawaii Director**  
**Christians in Real Estate - Jerry Young, President**  
**Marriage On The Spot - Kent & Elisabeth Kitagawa, Hawaii Directors**  
**ACTS Foundation - Rev. Ralph & Susan McIntosh, President**  
**Fiction Readers - Eric Butler, President & John Dunaway**  
**Grace 4U Ministries - Nicollette Blout, President**  
**Fishnet Ministries - Bonnie Holcomb, Chaplain**  
**Brother Ben Prison Ministries - Ben Hill, President**  
**Healing Rooms of Honolulu - John & Linda Keough, Hawaii Directors**  
**River of Life Mission - Bob Merchant, Executive Director**  
**SADAKA International Dance Company - Deborah Bear Barbour, President**  
**Salem Broad Casting - Dave Serron, Sales Manager**  
**KWHE TV 14 - Tony Boquer, General Manager**  
**Island Women Restore Lives - Jodi Akau, President**  
**Hawaii Community Land Trust - Carol Steele, Secretary / Treasure**  
**Victory Ohana Prison Ministries - Gary Shields, President**  
**Sons of Issacar - Pastor Eric Hurd, President**  
**Christ Centered Consulting - Donna Gamboa, President**  
**Market Place Ministries - GoJes H.S., President**  
**Youth Vision - Randy & Julie Shiroma, President**  
**Hawaii Pacific Christian Community Foundation - C. Nightingdale, Chairman**  
**Christian Voice of Hawaii - Leon Siu, President**  
**International Dance Academy - Colleen Namura, President**  
**The Open Door Academy - Tom Mcree, President/CEO**  
**Prison Ministry - Eddie Ochoa, Chaplain**  
**Windward Spouse Abuse Shelter - Avis Jarvis, Executive Director**  
**Ho'olohe Pono - Moani Sitch, Exec. Dir.**

**Heart Light Ministries** - Phyllis Ramia, President  
**Mercy Ministries International** - Pastor Helena Corcoran, President  
**Shelter of Wisdom** - Carolina Jesus, President  
**It's All His, It's All God's Ministry** - Nathan Paikai, President  
**Nutrition & Education** - Dr. Judy Paikai  
**Willie L. Burrus**  
**Logo's Bookstore of Hawaii** - Carl Ashizawa, Manager  
**Island Christian Guide** - Paul & Cheryl Okimoto, Publishers  
**Surfing the Nation** - Tom Bauer, President  
**Dads Against Drugs (DAD)** - William (Will) Malina, President  
**Gideon's International** - Ron Needham, Area Director, Hawaii  
**Hollywood Prayer Network** - Barbara Hester, Hawaii Director  
**Victory Outreach** - Tony Velasco, Executive Director Hawaii  
**The Healing Community** - Dr. Wayne Nickens, Dr. John Char, Pastor Eric Hurd, Pastor Rick Irvin & Cheryl Toyofuku, R.N.  
**A2 Media** - Greg Andermann, President  
**Hawaii Helps Disabilities** - Kimberly Selden, Founder  
**Waikiki Beach Outreach** - Robert "Bob" Erb, President  
**HE Reigns Christian Network** - Lee lane, Executive Director  
**Agape Bible College** - Dr. Leti Mageo, Principle  
**C12** - Al Moi

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 444**

From

REPRESENTATIVE JOE BERTRAM III

February 5, 2009

Aloha Representative Jon Rikki Karamatsu, Chair, Judiciary Committee and Judiciary Committee members.

I write in strong support of HB 444 RELATING TO CIVIL INIONS.

My own parents were subject to the laws that forbid mixed race marriages. These arcane and hurtful laws represented the lack of civil rights for everyone that this bill will address.

Gays are not second class citizens.

As Nelson Mandala said "Marriage is not between a man and a women – it is between two human beings."

Thank you for your support of this measure.

3 pages of testimony

①

February 5, 2009

**To: House Judiciary Committee****Fax: (808) 586-8494****From: Margaret Scow, Hawaii Citizen, Wife, Mother & Business Owner****Re: Testimony against Civil Unions HB-444****Hearing Date & Time: Thursday, February 5, 2009 @ 2 pm (Room #325)**

To the Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Aloha, my name is Margaret Scow and I'm a wife, mother, business owner and leader at my Church. When I heard that the House Judiciary Committee was considering legalizing Civil Unions, I was very concerned. I am concerned for our communities and our State of Hawaii. My neighborhood in Mililani and the members of my Church in Wahiawa consist of traditional families. We are thriving as God intended traditional families to thrive and I don't want to see the homosexual lifestyle being accepted as the norm and bringing problems to our communities and to our State of Hawaii. The first type of problem that Civil Unions would bring to our state is a spiritual problem.

**The Separation of church & state is not a constitutional phrase**

Before you cite to me "Separation of Church and State", because I bring God into my testimony, I would like to inform you that the phrase "Separation of Church and State" is not in the Constitution. It is not in the Declaration of Independence and the phrase "Separation of Church and State" is not in the First Amendment. The phrase "separation of church and state" is in a letter from Founding Father and believer in Jesus Christ, Thomas Jefferson. This letter was written on January 1, 1802 from Thomas Jefferson to a minister in Great Britain. If you read the entire letter in context, it is plain to see that the letter conveyed that Jefferson didn't want the Church of England or any other denomination to be the prominent Christian denomination in the United States of America but he wanted all Americans to be able to choose their own Christian denomination. It was taken for granted that all Americans at that time were Christians, believers in God and believers in the Bible.

You may say that you don't believe in the Bible but our Founding Fathers most certainly did. And they were the ones who created the foundations of our Nation and our Constitution. So what the Bible says is very relevant in this hearing.

**Leviticus 18:22 KJV**

Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is **abomination**.

**Romans 1:24-27 KJV**

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the **natural use into that which is against nature:**

27 **And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men** working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that **recompence of their error which was meet.**

(2)

So we see in these two Scriptures that God sees homosexual unions as an **abomination, as unclean, dishonorable, a deceitful lifestyle or a lie, idolatry, unnatural, against nature and error**. Homosexual's so-called "love", God calls **vile affection and lust**. The homosexual lifestyle is a sin in the eyes of God. Whether Civil Unions is legalized in Hawaii or not, in the eyes of God, it will always be an abomination and a sin.

### **Genesis 1:27-28 KJV**

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

From this Scripture, we see that God created them male & female. Civil Unions are not male & female as God intended unions to be. Secondly, God cannot bless that type of relationship. And thirdly, we see from these Scriptures that Civil Unions are not physically able to be fruitful and multiply. Sodom and Gomorah in the Bible was a sterile environment and could never be fruitful. Eventually, God had to destroy Sodom and Gomorah because of its wickedness. Every society that promotes homosexuality will also be sterile and eventually destroyed.

### **Medically & Scientifically**

Besides the fact that God views homosexuality as a sin, from a Medical or Scientific point of view, Civil Unions would still not be beneficial to Hawaii because Civil Unions or any same sex relationship will attract more homosexuals to Hawaii to be "united". Statistics show that sodomy results in Shigellosis, Hepatitis B, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and many other diseases, not to mention HIV and AIDS, which has no cure at this time. I have seen a Transvestite dying of AIDS and it was not a pretty sight. Hawaii does not want Civil Unions because it will bring an increase in STD's, HIV, AIDS and other diseases that result from homosexual relationships.

### **Hawaii has already voted against same-sex marriage**

The people of Hawaii have already made their voice heard when we voted **against** same-sex marriage. Civil Unions are the same as same-sex marriage. Why should we go through the same process again just because a few outspoken homosexual activists want Civil Unions to become a law? Nevertheless, if we have to go through it all over again, we will. And this time, Hawaii will make our voice heard so loudly that no homosexual activist will want to bring this up again in our state.

### **Warning to the Politicians who voted for Civil Unions**

HB-444 was signed by some members in the House of Representatives, but these representatives that signed the bill should be aware that when they go to run for the House of Representatives again or any other office, Hawaii will not be voting for them in the future. The reason we will not vote for you in the future is because you do not represent the views of your district and the views of **all of Hawaii's people** who have already voted on this matter. And if a representative can't represent **all** of Hawaii's people and not just the homosexual advocates with their agenda, than that representative or Senator shouldn't be in office. We have to look at what is best for our entire state of Hawaii, not just a select group that is outspoken.

(3)

**Wording in HB-444**

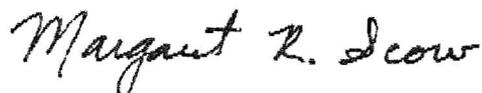
In addition, the wording for HB-444 is very loosely written and leaves many variables unanswered and leaves openings for many other homosexual activities. For example, Section 3 of this bill would allow a woman to marry her stepmother, stepdaughter and many other scenarios thus not only legalizing Civil Unions, you would be legalizing Incest in the State of Hawaii. Also, Section 9 leaves an opening for the assumption that homosexuals can be foster parents, adopt and/or raise children, since that is a "benefit" of a heterosexual couple. As the owner of a Daycare Center, I can tell you that that would not be in the best interest of children and families - Which brings me to my last point:

**Children's best interest is NOT Civil Unions**

Lastly, the majority of our society is made up of traditional families. Without traditional families, we would not have a stable society. As the owner of a Day Care Center, I have a passion for nurturing children and for promoting what is best for them. Civil Unions is not best for Hawaii's children. Children know that they are supposed to have a mommy and a daddy, not two mommies or two daddies. Statistics show that children thrive when they are in a healthy home with one dad and one mom. Growing up in a family with two parents of the same-sex is confusing for children and makes them insecure and unstable. Statistics show that children growing up in a family with parents of the same-sex have problems with healthy socialization and often turn to crime, drugs and/or alcohol.

Please listen to God's voice (as written in the Bible), the voice of Hawaii's people and the voice of the innocent children that this bill would affect! **Vote against HB-444 – Civil Unions!**

Sincerely,



Margaret R. Scow

RE: Relating to Civil Unions Legislation  
Ryan K. Iwanaga-Manning-Kapuni'ai  
William S. Richardson School of Law  
LAMBDA (GLBT student organization) President for 2008-2009  
Suemori & Associates, LLLC  
Room 302 State Capital  
To: Chair Korematsu, and Members of House Judiciary Committee  
Judiciary Committee Hearing, February 5, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

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Good afternoon Chair Korematsu, Vice-Chair Ito, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee, my name is Ryan Kapuni'ai, I am currently a law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law, and am president of LAMBDA, the GLBT student organization at the law school, for the 2008-2009 academic year.

I am testifying today in support of H.B. No. 444 and S.B. NO. 458. I am currently in a reciprocal beneficiary relationship with my committed partner of three years with whom I live.

For me, this bill is important because it would grant social validity and support to our relationship, which we badly need. It is very difficult to have a healthy relationship when there is a social stigma against gay relationships. Passing Civil Union legislation would send an important message that same-sex relationships are valid and important, and that we are an accepted part of society here in the State of Hawaii, the Aloha State.

In terms of economics, I believe legalizing Civil Unions would increase revenue from weddings and tourism.

I also support Civil Union legislation because I feel it is a good compromise between no support for gay unions and gay marriage. I understand the reservations many on the far right have regarding children, family, traditional notions of the home, and religion with regards to this matter. Therefore, because we share this state and this nation, I, along with our current president, and the Democratic Party and the Democratic Party of Hawaii, support Civil Unions legislation as a way to grant gay Americans our fundamental right to marriage while accommodating those who oppose the term 'marriage' for personal and religious reasons. Although I look forward to the day when full equality might be accomplished for all Americans.

In Family Law we are learning that marriage is a fundamental aspect of family life, of the community, and of society in general. To deny this to some Americans is very destabilizing to gay Americans, and in my opinion, is destabilizing to those close to gay Americans; family and friends. I would argue that when one member of a family suffers, the whole family suffers. If this is true, then many more millions of Americans are directly or indirectly by this legislation. Conservatives argue in favor of family stability and the unitary family, and I would perhaps agree; stabilizing gay relationships is stabilizing for all Americans.

In closing, I would add that my relationship with my partner is one of the most challenging, rewarding, and important events of my life, and I know that anyone who has ever experienced a committed relationship can understand that perfectly. I respectfully submit that marriage, or civil unions, are a fundamental constitutional right, which carry many benefits, not the least of which is emotional, mental, and social health and stability.

**karamatsu3-Leanne**

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**From:** DaCoconutWireless [DaCoconutWireless@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2009 1:47 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** Rep. Della Belatti  
**Subject:** Hearing Testimony in Strong Support: House Judiciary Committee, House Bill 444, A Bill For An Act Relating to Civil Unions

**Importance:** High

**House Judiciary Committee, Hearing Testimony for House Bill 444,**

**A Bill For An Act Relating to Civil Unions**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY in Strong Support of House Bill 444 :**

**Scott Orton, HIV/AIDS Awareness Advocate**

**1130 Hassinger St. #3A Honolulu, HI 96822**

**Ph: 808-383-2016**

**Late Testimony:**

**House Bill 444, A Bill For An Act Relating to Civil Unions,**

House Judiciary Committee

Hearing: Thursday, 2/5/09, at 2 p.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 325

415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu

Aloha Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair,  
Representative Ken Ito, Vice-Chair, and Judiciary Committee Members,

## **Civil Unions Could End Gender Discrimination In Hawaii**

We need to end the long standing discrimination in Hawaii against Gays and give same-sex couples equal rights that heterosexuals currently have under the law.

For me, it's very clear cut. I am gay, a homosexual, a fagot, a human being, a U.S. Citizen, and Hawaii State Resident. All homosexuals need the protections granted to heterosexuals in Marriage.

This is important because in Hawaii, the law denies and discriminates against homosexuals, and it isn't fair for me or any other Gay Person. I have HIV/AIDS and would like to take on a life partner in the future and I should have and need the same rights as a married person to take on a life partner. This recognition need to come from the State of Hawaii and the State needs to end this unfair discrimination.

In 2008 State Rep. Tommy Waters, best known as the chairman of the State House's Judiciary Committee, effectively killed a proposal, to create civil unions for gay couples by declining to vote on the legislation. After

five hours of testimony, though, the committee declined to vote. The State Representatives involved offered little explanation to the public.

A decision by the Hawaii Supreme Court would have allowed same-sex marriages, but a 1998 constitutional amendment and a law defined marriage as between two people of opposite sexes. Gay rights currently compromised in Hawaii were nearly legalized. Gay marriage more than a decade ago passed the legislature before stiff public opposition came from family advocacy groups, the Catholic Church and the Mormon Church.

Religious opponents argued that civil unions were being used as a step toward legalizing gay marriage. That it was essentially a re-examination of the same-sex marriage issue except with a different title was the position of Hawaii Catholic Church

Religion has voiced their opposition, and now they need to step aside. The State needs to exercise separation of church and state, and let the various Religions deal with their own discriminatory practices within their own individual Religions. Many Religious Leaders also support Gay Rights and believe in giving Equal Rights to Homosexuals that wish to Marry under the law. Gay Couples need and should have all of the legal guarantees granted to married couples, such as tax breaks, adoption rights and health benefits.

My choosing another male is natural for me. That being said, I should not be denied to legally become a partner of another with the Same Sex, under Hawaii State Law. Homosexual discrimination needs to end, because discrimination is always counter productive.

With love and aloha,  
Scott Orton, HIV/AIDS Awareness Advocate  
Webmaster: [www.DaCoconutWireless.com](http://www.DaCoconutWireless.com)

**karamatsu3-Leanne**

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**From:** Pam Lichy [pamelalichy@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2009 1:45 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** Fwd: testimony for 2/5, 2 pm hearing.

Sorry! Sent to wrong address!

----- Forwarded message -----  
From: Pam Lichy <pamelalichy@gmail.com>  
Date: Wed, Feb 4, 2009 at 12:18 PM  
Subject: testimony for 2/5, 2 pm hearing.  
To: JUDtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov

Pasted below is my testimony for tomorrow's hearing on Civil unions. Mahalo!  
pam lichy

--  
Pamela G. Lichy, MPH

Phone: 808 735-8001  
Fax: 808 735-2971  
Cell: 808 224-3056  
[plichy@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:plichy@hawaii.rr.com)

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

FROM: PAMELA G. LICHTY

DATE: FEBRUARY 5, 2009, 2P.M., ROOM 325

RE: HB 444 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS - IN STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito, and members of the Committee.  
My name is Pamela Lichy and I'm testifying today as a private citizen and as a long-time member of the ACLU of Hawaii's Legislative Working Group. I am gratified that the Committee has scheduled this hearing today and I'm sorry I'm unable to be present.

My husband and I have been married for almost 40 years. During that time we've been able to take advantage of the hundreds of benefits and privileges of all kinds that our state makes available for heterosexual couples.

It's way past time for the same advantages to be made available to members of the gay community and I'm pleased to see that Hawai'i is joining the growing number of states weighing this step. Thus I'm pleased to be able to strongly support HB 444 which would extend virtually all of those same rights and privileges to same gender couples.

Again thank you for hearing this bill and I urge you to pass it out with a strong recommendation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

--

Pamela G. Lichty, MPH  
President  
Drug Policy Forum of Hawai'i  
P.O. Box 61233  
Honolulu, HI 96839  
Phone: 808 735-8001  
Fax: 808 735-2971  
Cell: 808 224-3056  
[plichty@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:plichty@hawaii.rr.com)  
[www.dpfhi.org](http://www.dpfhi.org)

**From:** Pati St John Payne [neosproductions@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2009 1:43 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** House Bill 444

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair

Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair

Rep. Della Au Belatti	Rep. Hermina M. Morita
Rep. Rida Cabanilla	Rep. Blake K. Oshiro
Rep. Mele Carroll	Rep. Joseph M. Souki
Rep. Robert N. Herkes	Rep. Clift Tsuji
Rep. Sylvia Luke	Rep. Glenn Wakai
Rep. Angus L.K. McKelvey	Rep. Barbara C. Marumoto
Rep. John M. Mizuno	Rep. Cynthia Thielen

I am writing to ask that you do not support House Bill 444 which will allow same-sex partners to have all the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities under the law as are granted to spouses in marriage.

Hawaii's constitution was amended in 1998 to read "The Legislature shall have the power to reserve marriage to opposite-sex couples." The Hawaii legislature subsequently passed a law prohibiting marriage for same-sex couples. House Bill 444 is simply replacing the word "marriage" with "civil union." Hawaii's voters made it clear that marriage rights are to be preserved for a man and a woman.

Hawaii's voters have made it clear that we are opposed to any anything that changes the traditional definition of marriage. Please honor our wishes and withdraw your support from House Bill 444.

Respectfully yours,

Patricia St John Payne  
94508 Hokualea St.  
Mililani, HI 96789  
808.623.7278

**karamatsu3-Leanne**

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**From:** Elenoa Fuka [elenozee@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2009 1:39 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** HB444

House Committee on Judiciary  
Attn: Committee Clerk  
State Capitol, Room 420  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Oppose HB444

Dear Committee Chair and members:

I write to express strong opposition to HB44 which will extend the same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage to partners in a civil union. This bill insults and demeans the meaning of what marriage is. The purpose of marriage is to procreate and is a union between a man and a woman, not to gain benefits from the government or any other entities. If people want the benefits that come with marriage then they need to enter marriage the appropriate way, between a man and a woman. The benefits of marriage are available to everyone, however, people choose to be with people of the same sex. When one chooses to do that, they also choose not to have the benefits. I urge you not to pass HB444

Regards,

Elenoa

Elenoa Fuka  
Resident  
2232 Hoonanea St.  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
(808) 366-0585

**karamatsu3-Leanne**

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**From:** Michelle Fuluvaka [michelle.fuluvaka@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2009 1:56 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** Strongly Disagree with measure HB444

Aloha,

My name is Michelle Fuluvaka and I am a resident of Hawaii. I am writing in regards to the February 5, 2009 hearing on measure number HB444 relating to Civil Unions. I oppose this bill as it is one step closer to legalizing same sex marriage. If this measure is passed it sends a message that government sanctions such relationships. As a concerned citizen I strongly disagree with measure HB444 and wonder the motives behind introducing this bill.

I strongly support the fact that marriage is between a man and a woman. I hope you will make the right decision in standing up for the voice of the people.

Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono

Mahalo,

Michelle Fuluvaka

**karamatsu3-Leanne**

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**From:** heroes53@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2009 2:55 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** ralph@actsfoundation.com  
**Subject:** HB 444

Dear Sirs:

I would like to register opposition to passage of Bill # 444 on civil unions. This is not best for Hawaii or any state. We need our future generations and this is a dead end street. It is my opinion that this is a deviant life style that will only hurt us all.

Sincerely,

Ralph E. McIntosh  
[ralph@actsfoundation.com](mailto:ralph@actsfoundation.com)  
[www.actsfoundation.org](http://www.actsfoundation.org)  
808-295-5573

Ralph E. McIntosh  
[ralph@actsfoundation.com](mailto:ralph@actsfoundation.com)  
[www.actsfoundation.org](http://www.actsfoundation.org)  
808-295-5573

## karamatsu3-Leanne

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**From:** Sarah Hunt  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2009 2:56 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** FW: Pine's Bill HB1788 to be Heard this Thursday

> From: Scott Bradshaw <eb2bishopbradshaw@gmail.com>  
> Date: February 5, 2009 7:08:14 AM HST  
> To: Sarah Hunt <hunt@capitol.hawaii.gov>  
> Subject: Re: Pine's Bill HB1788 to be Heard this Thursday  
>  
>  
>

> As a concerned resident of Ewa Beach and a supporter of Rep  
> Kymberly Pine I lend my support to bill 1788 as an opportunity to  
> increase the rights of innocent victims and better protect the  
> innocent.  
>

> Unfortunately I cannot be there in person to add my testimony  
> due to a prior commitment but please consider this written testimony  
> as you consider this important piece of legislation.  
>

> Mahalo!

> Bishop Scott J. Bradshaw  
> Ewa Beach 2nd Ward  
> PH (808) 230-0038  
>

## karamatsu3-Leanne

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**From:** Becky Mitschele [beckysuu@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2009 2:33 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** HB 444 Support Testimony

My name is Rebecca Mitschele, and I am writing to the House Judiciary Committee regarding HB 444, which is scheduled for a hearing on February 5th, 2009 at 2pm. I am fully in support of this measure number (HB 444).

Even though we as a country have made huge strides toward equality, prejudice still exists and the fact that not all citizens are legally allowed to be viewed as being "married" is prejudice. With the historic election of our 44th president, this inequality encountered in everyday society will hopefully be diminished and create a more progressive and democratic society that was envisioned by our founding fathers. The fact that Hawaii is proposing HB 444 is evident of this movement, and a positive sign that we are moving, finally, in the right direction, one that upholds the truths and values in our constitution.

The issue here should not be one whether is it "right" or "wrong" that partners might be the same sex but whether or not the government has a right to "with hold" this civil liberty from a group of society. In fact, the concept of marriage between a man and a woman arises from religious origins and could be argued that "enforcing" rules of this biblical value is clearly in violation of separation of powers between Church and State. Anyone who is committed to being in a relationship should be allowed to make that commitment legal. The same rights, benefits, protections, and responsibilities of spouses in a marriage should be extended to partners in a civil union.

I, Rebecca Mitschele, urge the members of 2009 Hawaii legislative session to approve Bill 444 and by in doing so, grant a freedom that many of us have long taken for granted and to take another monumental step this year in ensuring equality for all people regardless of race, sex, or sexual preference. Thank you and Aloha.

**karamatsu3-Leanne**

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**From:** Kealani Ah Puck [kealani.ah.puck@byuh.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2009 3:57 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** HB444 Relating to Civil Unions 2/5/9

To the House Judiciary Committee Members and Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Kealani Makaiwi, Administrative Assistant for University Housing at BYU-Hawaii. I am in opposition to HB444 (Relating to Civil Unions). This bill is being discussed today, February 5, 2009.

If this bill is passed, many people may believe that civil unions can be an attempt to legitimize gay marriage by using another title. When governments offer sex-partner benefits similar to traditional marriage, they send a message of government sanction of such relationships, moving society one short step away from legalizing gay "marriage".

I truly believe that marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God, and that the formation of families is central to God's plan for His children, and that children are entitled to be born within this bond of marriage, and none other.

Please do not consider legalizing civil unions in the state of Hawaii. Mahalo,

Kealani M. Makaiwi  
Brigham Young University - Hawaii  
University of Housing  
Administrative Assistant - Residence Halls  
Phone: (808)675-3480  
Fax: (808)675-3199  
Email: [kealani.ah.puck@byuh.edu](mailto:kealani.ah.puck@byuh.edu)

**karamatsu3-Leanne**

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**From:** Arria Leigh [huntress.arria@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2009 4:31 PM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY REGARDING HB 444 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS

**TESTIMONY REGARDING HB 444 RELATING TO CIVIL UNIONS**

To: JUD Chair, Jon Riki Karamatsu  
JUD Vice-Chair, Rep. Ken Ito  
Judiciary Committee Clerk

From: Arria Leigh Petke, Student

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF PASSAGE OF HB 444 UNAMENDED

Honorable Chair Karamatsu, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the JUD Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB 444 Relating to Civil Unions. I believe that it is the best interest of the State of Hawai'i to pass HB 444, which would allow members of the same sex the ability to extend legal rights and benefits to their domestic partners outside of the domain of "marriage." Please support this bill, as it is a matter of championing civil rights.

Mahalo,

Arria Leigh Petke

Vice President  
People Ethically Acting for a Cruelty-free Environment (PEACE)

Chair  
LGBTI Resource Center Committee

Vice President  
PRIDE Hilo

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." ~Martin Luther King Jr