

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: adrianktam@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016 7:05:06 PM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for EDU/CPH on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adrian Tam	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please do not listen to public testimony on this issue, listen to the Department of Health, licensed psychologists, medical historians, and doctors. Who are all in a consensus that gay conversion therapy doesn't work and is dangerous.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: annsfreed@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016 11:23:52 PM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for EDU/CPH on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Horrific results have followed the attempts of charlatan counsellors to change the sexual orientation of gay people. These results include suicide. I fully support this bill that would ban such a practice on our young people. Regards, Ann S. Freed

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair & Members

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair & Members

Re: Opposition to SB 2615 as currently drafted

Hearing: 2/12/16 12:30pm Room 229

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Leslie Jones (Senate District 23) and as a former university professor in Psychology at the graduate division level, as well as Director of Psychology Internships for nearly ten years, I believe it is important to offer a perspective on SB2615 that I have not yet encountered in reading through the posted testimony, which is a perspective of unity. Rather than focus our efforts on the extremes that exist with such a controversial topic as conversion therapy, it seems that a more productive approach is warranted.

True scientific inquiry demands that we investigate all the relevant evidence, not just that which supports our own specific theory of events. As a result, while it is true that there have been misguided and even coercive attempts to effect change in the sexual orientation of those who did not desire such change, it is equally true that there have been compassionate and effective efforts to assist those who do desire such change, as well as successful efforts to assist those who only desire clarification of the questions involved. Therefore, to define conversion therapy as broadly as it is in SB2615 is to do a disservice to those teachers, counselors, and other professionals who are using their best professional skills and ethics to provide a valuable service to their clients.

We all know that questions of sexual orientation and gender identity are difficult, no matter at what age they arise and no matter what the orientation may be. It seems then that the logical and reasonable approach, especially when it comes to impressionable populations such as our youth, would be to offer them every possible support to address these challenging questions, in a compassionate and non-judgmental fashion. In addition, while it may be an unpopular topic, our teachers and counseling professionals are on the “front lines” when it comes to handling bullying, harassment, and other discipline-related matters that can arise between students. As a result, our teachers and counseling professionals need sufficient latitude and discretion to enable them to intervene effectively to “change the behavior(s), expressions, and/or romantic advances” involved.

Therefore, I respectfully offer the following amended language to SB2615:

SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§302A- Sexual orientation change efforts limited. (a) No teacher shall engage in an abuse of his/her authority or position if and when involved in sexual orientation change efforts with a student under eighteen years of age.

(b) Any teacher who engages in an abuse of his/her authority or position if and when involved in sexual orientation change efforts with a student under eighteen years of age shall be subject to disciplinary action by the department.

(c) For the purposes of this section, "sexual orientation change efforts" means the practice of attempting to change a person's sexual orientation, including but not limited to efforts to change behaviors, gender identity, or gender expressions; or to reduce or eliminate sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward a person of the same gender.

"Sexual orientation change efforts" shall not include counseling for a person seeking to transition from one gender to another or counseling that:

(1) Provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a person or facilitates a person's coping, social support, and identity exploration and development, including sexual orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices; and

(2) Does not seek to change sexual orientation."

SECTION 3. Chapter 436B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§436B- Sexual orientation change efforts limited; advertising limited. (a) No person who is licensed to provide professional counseling, including but not limited to a physician specializing in the practice of psychiatry, physician assistant, psychologist, social worker, mental health counselor, marriage and family therapist, or a person who performs counseling as part of the person's professional training for any of these professions, shall:

(1) Engage unsolicited in sexual orientation change efforts, as defined in section 302A- , on a person under eighteen years of age; or

(2) Advertise the offering unsolicited of sexual orientation change efforts, as defined in section 302A- , on a person under eighteen years of age.

(b) Any person who is licensed to provide professional counseling who attempts to engage unsolicited in sexual orientation change efforts or advertises the offering unsolicited of sexual orientation change efforts on a person under eighteen years of age shall be subject to disciplinary action by the appropriate professional licensing authority.

(c) In addition to the penalties under subsection (b), advertising the offering unsolicited of sexual orientation change efforts on a person under eighteen years of age shall constitute an unfair or deceptive act or practice under section 480-2."

As one of my colleagues has testified, "while many youth can and do seek counseling as they are discovering their own sexualities, gender identities, and abilities to build meaningful relationships, that counseling should be supportive of their exploration and self-definition, not an attempt to force them along one proscribed path." I believe that the proposed amended language to SB2615 furthers these aims.

In closing, I agree that this bill represents a clear opportunity to protect Hawaii's youth, IF we take the unified perspective of doing no harm to all parties concerned. I hope that you will vote in support of SB2615 with the recommended amendments. Thank you again for this opportunity to testify.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: rapmaui@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM
Date: Friday, February 12, 2016 2:21:02 PM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for EDU/CPH on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rick Piva	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: My brother and I have been so called SURVIVORS of the total AUSCHWITZ EXPERIENCE>! We know HATE from the cradle. This conversion therapy comes directly from the MKULTRA PROGRAM directed at individuals as exactly the same as we both experienced and simply ***endured*** in the Auschwitz experience. AS EDUCATORS CAN tell YOU FROM experience when you treat babies and innocent children to the meanest most hideous TORTURE to death of innocent tiny babies and children with no reason but to make MONEY, then this kind of procedure is something that will only kill and create human misery under the same exact guise they used on us EXACTLY-IN AUSCHWITZ-- so they say history repeats itself --so look down the road a piece and we will all be looking at walking straight into the ovens as we are all forced by totally depraved and Insane and very hideous MONSTERS we call a legislature who allow such hideous babies of humanity this is what I and my brother simply ENDURED but never gave up and we forgave them all but we must NEVER NEVER FORGET- Conversion therapy is exactly what they used the NAZI's on us in the Auschwitz experience and perhaps all who are in favor of this therapy have them try it and make them endure the experience and perhaps they might find they who are in favor of it need this for themselves since this proves your all second class citizens who would vote for this as first rate --amen Ricky Piva

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: seeknfind@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016 9:36:44 PM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for EDU/CPH on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rita Kama-Kimura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Chair Michelle Kidani Senate Committee on Education and Committee members Chair Rosalyn Baker Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and Committee members RE: SB2615 "Conversion Therapy, Sexual Orientation; Minors" I am writing in strong opposition to this bill. Too many bills are directed at circumventing parental rights and this is another example of that abuse. Without knowing anything about the child, his or her past history, without an evaluation by a licensed professional chosen by the parent, you as an elected official have decided to dictate the treatment. Or in this case the withholding of any professional licensed treatment/evaluation/therapy or counseling, I would say it borders on government child abuse. This over reaching bill would impose a one size fits all approach on every child in Hawaii. You have chosen to treat our children like cattle, not as the unique individuals that they are. I strongly ask you rethink this bill and urge you to put it to rest for good. Respectfully submitted Rita Kama-Kimura Mililani, HI 96789

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

SANDRA YOUNG

Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 2897
Aiea, Hawaii 96701
Telephone (808) 487-8464

LATE

Date: Feb. 11, 2016

To: The Members of Senate Committee on Education:
Chair Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair Breene Harimoto, Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland,
Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Sen. Sam Slom
The Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health:
Chair Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, Sen. Will Espero, Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.,
Sen. Russell E. Ruderman, Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Sen. Sam Slom

Re: Strong Opposition to SB No. 2615 (ban against reparative/conversion therapy)

I testify in strong opposition to SB 2615 for the following reasons.

1. SB 2615 interferes with fundamental parental rights to make decisions relating to the care and health of their child, and are not matters that should be dictated by the government, absent a compelling state interest.
2. If a child is depressed or suicidal about an unwanted sexual attraction, said child should be allowed to seek a trained therapist for reparative therapy, along with counseling for depression and suicidal thoughts. The child's choice/desire is critical to the treatment, and its success.
3. Children who are sexually abused may develop an unwanted same sex attraction that was caused by the abuse. If they desire treatment, it seems cruel to deny them treatment, and may even exacerbate feelings of hopelessness, depression and suicide for something that occurred through no fault of their own.
4. It is expensive for a family to send a child out of state for to get this type of therapy. Only the well-to-do will be able to afford it. Some out of state counselors will be able to perform this type of therapy by phone, as well as require occasional in-person visits.
5. It is also viewpoint or religious discrimination against children and parents who may find LGBT lifestyle and views incompatible with their own views. For children and people of faith who want assistance overcoming behavior they view as morally unacceptable, unhealthy and/or incompatible with their faith, the Legislature should not pass legislation which infringes on that fundamental First Amendment right, absent a compelling state interest. I see none.

Has this legislature reviewed statistics in California, New Jersey and DC to see if the teen suicide rate is lower among LGBT children in light of the bans in those states/communities? If not, our legislature must do so. Also, please consider the articles/matters I cite below.

6. Nearly all children experience rejection by people including their own family members for one reason or another: intelligence, talent, physical attractiveness, athletic skills, personality, decisions/choices, grades, character, achievements, and the list goes on. We all need to learn how to handle rejection, failure and depression in a healthy manner. Is a prohibition against counseling that a child desires the healthy response to the problem?
7. On one hand the bill appears to allow the counseling of children with behavior that is unlawful. On the other hand, another paragraph, as drafted, includes a prohibition of counseling youngsters who have a certain sexual orientation, including pedophilia. Thus, if there is 10 year old boy with a sexual orientation toward young children, it could be argued that he will be prohibited from receiving counseling for his sexual orientation until he is 18 years old.
8. Many of us (Christians, pastors, and others) who work with folks with spiritual problems would feel more comfortable being able work with a psychologist or therapist who is trained in this area. Some problems require both spiritual and psychological/psychiatric counseling.
9. Therapists have a constitutional right of free speech and the right to practice their faith under the First Amendment of our Constitution. Likewise teachers in religious schools (Catholic/Christian/some Jewish) have a constitutional right of free speech and the right to practice their faith under the First Amendment of our Constitution. The Legislature has no right or compelling interest to dictate what school teachers at religious schools should teach their children about faith and what are acceptable moral standards of right and wrong. Besides teaching and counseling, teachers at religious schools often pray for their children too.
10. How many cases of children in Hawaii being forced into unwanted reparative counseling have been reported in 2015? 2014? Any reports of adverse consequences if such counseling have occurred? I spoke to two therapists today in a social setting, and neither of them perform reparative therapy, and do not know any other therapist who offers such services. I checked the yellow pages of the Hawaiian Telcom telephone directory, and no one advertises for such services. If there are no patterns of such cases of coercive reparative therapy which led to children's suicides, it makes no sense to pass a law that seems intended to impose a particular worldview on our community and silence therapists/teachers of faith.

11. Please consider the potential adverse consequences of such a proposed ban. Walt Heyer, a former transgender suggests that such bans against reparative therapy may increase suicides: <http://thefederalist.com/2016/01/06/politicians-response-to-transgenders-is-likely-to-increase-suicides/>. For more information visit Heyer's website, www.sexchangeregret.com.
12. Consider research by an expert. Dr. Neil Whitehead, a scientist in New Zealand who has reviewed over 10,000 studies on homosexuality. Here's what he finds: **Most same-sex attracted adolescents will not become homosexual adults.**
13. Those who contend that reparative therapies are coercive and forceful have little understanding of the process. Reparative therapy is done by licensed professional mental health workers who do not use force, coercion or aversion therapies with children; if any therapist did, there are already remedies with their local ethics boards. This bill attempts to ban something that appears to have not taken place in our community.
14. There are many, many testimonies of former gays, lesbians and transgendered people. Please consider that, rather than delaying a patient's choice to get the kind of treatment he/she desires or forcing him/her to travel/relocate out of state to get it. Also visit: <http://www.peoplecanchange.com/stories>. You will find that they are grateful to have overcome that lifestyle choice, and now live in peace, joy and fulfillment. Many of them have married opposite sex persons, and even have children.

Here are some of the most moving testimonies. Please view the youtube testimony of former practicing homosexual Christopher Yuan who is now a professor at a Christian college. He now knows peace, joy, and has found fulfillment in life.

Also, consider the 2013 testimony of former leftist/lesbian professor, Rosaria Champagne Butterfield, who hated Christians and now has found peace and joy (even marriage with an opposite sex person) at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2013/january-february/my-train-wreck-conversion.html>

After reviewing some of these testimonies of transformation of former LGBT folks, along with the joy, peace and fulfillment these folks are finding in their lives, why would you want to stop a child from finding that same joy, peace and fulfillment?

Thank you for considering all aspects and consequences of such a proposed ban. Please say no to SB2615. Mahalo.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Young

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: tardend@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016 7:56:30 PM

LATE

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for EDU/CPH on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas A. Dickey	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support passage of SB2615. So-called "conversion therapy" seems to me to be similar to terms we have heard in the last decade like "renditioning" and "enhanced interrogation techniques." Parents and teachers can do more for their gay children and students by learning to love them as much as they do their gay ones.

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: foxw001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2615 on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM*
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016 9:16:48 PM

SB2615

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for EDU/CPH on Feb 12, 2016 12:30PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Keoni Fox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov