

**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 944, RELATING TO THE UNIFORM PARENTAGE ACT.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Thursday, February 9, 2023 **TIME:** 9:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Brandon K. Flores, Assistant Administrator, Child Support
Enforcement Agency

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) supports the intent of the bill and provides the following comments.

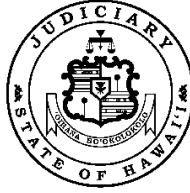
The purpose of this bill is to amend Act 201, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021 (Act 201), to require the Department to convene a task force jointly with the Department of Health to recommend amendments to the Hawaii Revised Statutes to update existing parentage laws that reflect outdated, cisheteronormative concepts of families, parenthood, and parental rights. The bill also extends the legislative report deadline from 20 days prior to the 2022 session to 40 days prior to the 2024 session and amends the dissolution of the task force from June 30, 2022, to December 31, 2024.

Because the Act 201 task force was already dissolved on June 30, 2022, if the Legislature intends to continue the work of the task force and accomplish the goals stated in Act 201, we recommend that the bill be amended to establish a new task force that resembles the Act 201 task force, rather than retroactively resurrect a task force that no longer exists.

However, Senate Bill 484, introduced this session, proposes substantive changes to the Uniform Parentage Act, and that may make another task force unnecessary.

If the legislature decides to re-establish a task force and re-enact similar provisions to those in Act 201, we recommend that the task force be given until 40 days before the 2025 session to complete a report to the Legislature. That timeframe should accommodate the various concerns of the many interested stakeholders and allow time to address the large scope of the proposed changes to the parentage act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i

**Testimony to the Thirty-Second Legislature
2023 Regular Session**

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 9:30 am.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

by
Matthew J. Viola
Senior Judge, Deputy Chief Judge
Family Court of the First Circuit

Bill No. and Title: Senate Bill No. 944, Relating to the Uniform Parentage Act.

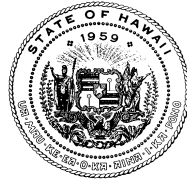
Purpose: Extends and modifies the task force established to recommend amendments to update existing parentage laws that reflect outdated, cisheteronormative concepts of families, parenthood, and parental rights to December 31, 2024.

Judiciary's Position:

The Judiciary takes no position on Senate Bill No. 944 that basically extends the time for a task force to bring recommendations to the Legislature regarding the Uniform Parentage Act.

The Judiciary supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 484 and/or House Bill No. 384 (not yet scheduled for hearing), which would repeal the existing Uniform Parentage Act and replace it with portions of the Uniform Parentage Act of 2017. Either of those bills would more than adequately address the concerns noted in the purpose statement of this bill. A task force will not be necessary should an Act result from either Senate Bill No. 484 or House Bill No. 384.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB944
RELATING TO THE UNIFORM PARENTAGE ACT.**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: February 9, 2023

Room Number: 016

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) chaired a task force in 2021 to
3 establish more fair processes for couples to declare legal and financial responsibility for a child,
4 similar to the long-standing process of Voluntary Establishment of Paternity. A copy of the
5 report may be found at [this link](#).

6 The task force revealed several opportunities for which statute may be enacted to promote equity
7 and recommends the purpose of the task force be expanded to specifically include:

- 8
- Gestational surrogacy, for which Hawaii Revised Statutes are silent,
 - Establishing parentage for non-gestational couples due to biology or medical condition,
9 and
10
 - Certain rights for persons who were adopted, including access to genetic information
11 about their natural parents
12

13 As originally drafted, the first measure would have benefitted couples for which one partner
14 could gestate a fetus, excluding male-male couples or female-male couples incapable of
15 gestation. DOH supports amendments that cover all family combinations and as many
16 circumstances as possible.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-944

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 6:23:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/9/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i; Hawai‘i’s oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports SB 944.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

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

SB-944

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 8:52:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/9/2023 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 supports SB944. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary/Board Member

SB-944

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 9:25:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/9/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joe Wilson	Testifying for North Shore Koʻolau Diversity Collective	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in support of SB944 on behalf of the North Shore Koʻolau Diversity Collective, a grassroots community network that promotes dignity, respect, inclusion, and justice for LGBTQ+ individuals and families here in our rural communities and across these islands.

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

Thank you for your attention and leadership on the concerns addressed in this bill.

AMENDED



February 9, 2023

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: S.B. 944, Relating to the Uniform Parentage Act

Hearing: February 09, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Hawaii Women Lawyers (“HWL”) **supports** S.B.944, which proposes to extend and modify the task force established to recommend amendments to update existing parentage laws that reflect outdated, cisheteronormative concepts of families, parenthood, and parental rights to December 31, 2024.

Hawaii Women Lawyers is a lawyer’s trade organization that aims to improve the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession, influence the future of the legal profession, and enhance the status of women and promote equal opportunities for all.

We support this bill, which extends and modifies the task force established to recommend amendments to update existing parentage laws. We note that there have been many changes in society, law and medical technology since the original enactment of Uniform Parentage Act of 1973, which was originally created in response to establish a legal framework for establishing parent-child relationships. The Uniform Law Commission released updates to the Uniform Parentage Act in 2002 and 2017, and we believe there is a significant need to update Hawaii’s parentage statutes. This will provide a more certain path and inclusion under the law for same sex couples, single parents, and children born through assisted reproductive technology and surrogacy. We also appreciate that updates to the law will provide long-needed clarity in Hawaii’s parentage act to eliminate outdated gender terms, provide a clear path to establishing voluntary, expedited and de facto parentage, and protect parent-child relationships of all types. In the wake of recent national trends, it is more important than ever that the Legislature take steps to protect all families in Hawaii and to recognize the diversity of ohana in our community.

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

P.O. Box 2072 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96805
Email: hawaiiwomenlawyers@gmail.com

SB-944

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 12:17:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/9/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Kramer	Testifying for Donor Sibling Registry	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's imperative that the needs and rights of donor-conceived people are acknowledged and addressed in this bill. The Donor Sibling Registry has more than 30 published papers on donor-conceived people, parents, donors, and their families. We also have more than 2 decades of hearing about the struggles and the experiences of more than 84,000 donors, parents, and donor-conceived people.

Anonymity is a thing of the past, as with DNA testing, no donor can expect to stay anonymous for 18 years. Laws should reflect this truth. Donor-conceived people have a right to know about their ancestry, medical backgrounds, and close genetic relatives....long before the age of 18. There is no research or evidence backing the claim that mandating a donor child to wait 18 years is in their best interests and plenty of evidence shows the importance of this information being known long before the age of 18. <https://donorsiblingregistry.com/dsr-research>

Wendy Kramer, Director, The Donor Sibling Registry

www.donorsiblingregistry.com 303-258-0902 (Office)

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of Committee on Judiciary

SB 944 extends the task force established to make recommendations to update existing parentage laws that reflect outdated, cisheteronormative concepts of families, parenthood, and parental rights.

This complex issue deserves consideration **to meet current needs of parents and children**. **Since modern concepts of families and parenthood sometimes involve assisted reproduction**, my suggestion would be to **add donor-conceived persons on the task force** and advocates for children's right to know their origins. **Donor-conceived children would be affected by an update to parentage laws.**

The fields available in the "certificate of live birth" do not capture the person's origins from assisted reproductive technology (such as sperm or egg donation, surrogacy) nor do the current fields match well with current diverse family configurations.

The government has been the keeper of formal documentation of personhood. The "**certificate of live birth**" implies by the time and place of birth that it is **documenting the historical facts of the person's birth**. The document also says **it cannot be changed under penalty of law**.

The following are **key considerations about this complex issue** from my experience as an adult adoptee, a PhD in Social Welfare, and from other experience.

1. **Children have a right and need to know their origins, from whom they were created.** Based on the experience of donor-conceived persons and from adoptees who were raised and denied knowing their genetic and biological connections, persons have a need to know this fundamental information about themselves. The lack of information about their genetic origins can leave people with a void about their ethnicity, family lineage, and family traits. Lack of medical history is a clear disadvantage.

In these times where there can be more than one mother, father, or parents because of assisted reproduction and diverse family relationships, the genetic and biological origins that created the child must be recorded and preserved for the well-being of the donor-conceived child.

2. **Children and their families must have a way to access this identifying origin information,** at the latest, when the child reaches age 18.

Provisions are needed for the child/family to access this information before age 18 for

- a) medical need,
- b) to prove Hawaiian ancestry for Hawaiian birth rights such as Kamehameha Schools, or
- c) if the donor and receiving family are in mutual agreement.

3. **Transparency about one's origins and ancestry are part of the Hawaiian culture and is a noteworthy feature of the Hawaiian cultural practice of hanai.**

4. One obstacle to achieve truth and transparency for children about their origins is the current practice of assisted reproduction often using anonymous gametes.
5. Which combination of possible OPTIONS for documents of birth information and identification for the child and for parentage (legal parents) will serve all parties?

A. To record and preserve facts of birth

The current “certificate of live birth” does not have fields to reflect current family configurations or genetic origins from assisted reproduction.

Additional fields seem necessary.

*Option: **Revise** template of “certificate of live birth” with*

a) fields to record biological, genetic, and gestational parents

b) additional fields compatible for parents of diverse families

Truthful and transparent with child’s history and current legal parents

However, for some will be too much information to share with school, sports, etc.

Original could be sealed; an amended one with just legal parents used for school, ID, etc.

*Option: **Explore the possibility that a “certificate of live birth” should not be changed once the basic facts of birth (a one-time event) are recorded.***

I once saw a “certificate of live birth” of a child that listed a father, no mother, and the child and father were of different races. Would a **document of identification and parentage** make more sense than a “certificate of live birth”?

Would it be safer from identity theft to use a different type of document? We once used social security numbers on driver’s licenses, checks, etc., but not now.

B. To document child’s identification and parentage

*Option: Create an **amended “certificate of live birth”** listing the legal parents*

*This would be **similar to adoption procedure** used for decades.*

*Option: Create a new **document of identification and parentage** with child’s name, date of birth, place of birth, gender, etc. and with legal parents listed. This new document could be used for identification and age for school and sports, etc.*

*Option: All births could generate **two documents** – 1) a “**certificate of live birth**” (with facts of birth *that do not change* and with new fields to reflect current reproductive technology) and 2) a **document of identification and parentage** that reflects contemporary families.*

6. How can donor-conceived children in Hawaii have their fundamental genetic origin information documented, preserved and released to them?

What are possible ways to strengthen protections for these children? **Since gametes used for assisted reproduction are often from anonymous donors, some changes are needed.**

Option: Require that all gametes used in Hawaii would come from donors who are willing to have their identifying information disclosed to their child at least by age 18. This willing-to-be-identified status would be certified by the gamete bank or fertility clinic.

Option: Require that this identifying information be documented, securely preserved and then released to the donor-conceived person upon request. Determine who should be required to provide or keep this information? The gamete bank? The clinic, doctor, or medical facility? The state? The donor-conceived child's family?

Thank you very much for this opportunity to discuss needs, concerns and options about the complex issues that may be explored by the task force to protect children and make recommendations to modernize the parentage law.

Some organizations for the donor-conceived and other resources follow.

Respectfully,
Kat McGlone

Organizations that support the donor-conceived:

- **Donor Sibling Registry**

“Educating, Connecting & Supporting Donor Families” DSR's core value is honesty, with the conviction that people have the fundamental right to information about their biological origins and identities.

<https://donorsiblingregistry.com/>

- **We are donor conceived**

“resource center for donor conceived people.” “We all deserve the truth.”

<https://www.wearedonorconceived.com/>

- **U. S. Donor Conceived Council**

“strives to increase awareness of the needs, interests, and challenges of donor conceived people and advance change that promotes and protects their health, welfare, and human rights.”

<https://www.usdcc.org/>

- **donor conceived community**

“provides peer support, education, and resources for people navigating donor conception & dna discoveries.”

<https://donorconceivedcommunity.org/about>

Other resources:

Session by donor-conceived and surrogate-born at the United Nations on 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. (2019).

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3PTiHF4egBG2KaSTYLDZUpiY_f1-BYy2

Concise, powerful testimony that highlight the issues for those who are donor-conceived

Samuels, Elizabeth. (2018). An Immodest Proposal for Birth Registration in Donor-Assisted Reproduction, In the Interest of Science and Human Rights.

https://scholarworks.law.ubalt.edu/fac_articles/5

Cahn, Naomi. (2014). "Do Tell! The Rights of Donor-Conceived Offspring," *Hofstra Law Review*: Vol. 42 : Iss. 4 , Article 3. <https://scholarlycommons.law.hofstra.edu/hlr/vol42/iss4/3>

Cahn, Naomi. (2011). Old Lessons for a New World: Applying Adoption Research & Experience to ART.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228139419_Old_Lessons_for_a_New_World_Applying_Adoption_Research_and_Experience_to_Art

United Nations. (1990). **Convention on the rights of the child.**

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>

Article 8 - States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference. Where a child is illegally deprived of some or all of the elements of his or her identity, States Parties shall provide appropriate assistance and protection, with a view to re-establishing speedily his or her identity.

SB-944

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 12:22:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/9/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abby Simmons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & Esteemed Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of SB 944, as it is a positive, progressive and constructive approach to addressing and assessing changes that are necessary to our parentage laws. By extending the task force we are including critical voices who provide expert insights and understanding of families that do not fall into the cisheteronormative category of family.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

From Dara Yatsushiro

From Holy Love Ministry – St. Joseph to visionary, Maureen, October 4, 2015:

St. Joseph is here and says: "Praise be to Jesus."

"Families must not be based upon falsehoods or decadent moral practices. If they are, they are not a firm part of the foundation in the heart of the world. A marriage, as God planned it, is between a man and a woman in cooperation with God towards the procreation of life. **If there is any other interpretation of marriage and family, it is not of God."**

"A strong family unit makes for a strong heart of the world - a world devoted to Truth through Holy Love. These parts cannot be interchanged or compromised and still produce the same end result. **Because families are being redefined these days, the heart of the world is compromised."**

SB-944

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 3:25:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/9/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Shapiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mark Shapiro

josef.shap@gmail.com

My name is Mark Shapiro and I'm a resident of Maui. I oppose S.B. No 944 as written, because there is no donor-conceived persons or organizations' representatives or anyone representing the children who would be affected.

As early as I can remember, as a child, I felt something was deeply wrong. I turned inward as a teenager and embarked on a journey to find myself.

I studied dozens of models, methodologies, philosophies, spiritualities, etc. to try to get to the bottom of what was missing. I learned a great deal about myself, people, and reality and it's a journey I wouldn't trade for anything. However, I learned at age 47 that it could have been far easier.

Of the many things I learned about myself along the way, I had a pattern of being drawn to male authority figures who would ultimately disappoint and often betray me. It happened so often that it was clear I was the common denominator. I knew I grew up with an emotionally distant father, but somehow the father issues I worked didn't unravel the issue.

When a friend in late 2020 suggested I do 23 and Me, I was curious about genetic predispositions I had for disease as I was getting older. I was shocked to discover eight relatives I'd never heard of, one of whom reached out to me and told me our biological father was a sperm donor. He sent me a picture of that man that easily could have been a younger picture of myself.

I had little doubt, but pressed my parents the next day and they confessed that they'd kept this secret for 47 years and planned to take it to their graves. I barely slept for about ten days. It was like my entire memory, my entire being was reorganizing, updating with this new information.

It explained so much: those awkward moments I felt as a child when asking my social father how tall he was to understand how tall I would be, dinner table conversations about whether I would

inherit his poor eyesight, and all the times I kind of stared at him because something just seemed strange in a way I couldn't place.

Something in me knew all along he wasn't my father. Children sense and feel things adults cannot, and when we tell them they're imagining things it makes it worse.. It wounds us. It causes us to not trust people and reality. It makes the world unsafe.

When that information is about where we came from and who our parents are, it's my direct experience that it creates existential level wounding that is nearly impossible to outwork without having the true information. As a therapist and coach, this is my area of expertise and professional opinion.

It's just a matter of time before the impact of genetic secrecy in families becomes a mainstream understanding. It wasn't that long ago that homosexuality was considered a disease or that heroin was a healthy alternative to morphine. The fertility industry and laws related to it are unregulated and primitive.

We have a right to know where we come from. The genetic predispositions to disease alone are an open and shut case for this. Both of my social father's brothers died of Alzheimers, but it turns out I don't have to worry about that. I did discover, however, that I have a genetic predisposition to blood clots. I also discovered that my biological father's passion was blending psychology and spirituality, fascinatingly a trait I inherited not seen anywhere in my social family.

It's not okay that this information was kept from me only because my parents were too uncomfortable to share the truth, and that no laws required that truth to be available to me. All of this will change as more and more people get genetic testing. It's just a matter of time at this point. Which states lead the change and which trail behind, struggling to embrace evolution?

S.B. No. 2747 allows donors to withhold their identity from the child forever. This idea stems from a flawed paradigm that says that nurture is more important than nature—that we can literally play God and move genetic material around without significant consequences that are too subtle for most people to notice.

To those who subscribe to this misguided paradigm, I say this: speak to a hundred donor-conceived children like me, who found out the truth by accident as an adult, many of whom were unable to ever find anything out about their true parent, and see if it still seems the same to you.

When I found out about my biological father, he had been dead for fifteen years. I had the fortune to know about him, but never knew him. I hold, as many people in my situation do, that it was my birthright to know who he was.

SB-944

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 10:25:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/9/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do not waste our tax dollars on this type of initiative. A task force? It isn't needed. We should continue to base on laws on "natural law" - which is God's law. It isn't outdated. It is the best family structure for creating a moral society and raising children. The problem is our current culture creates an environment that is focused on the self-centered interests of the adults while abusing the childhood of our keiki. Currently parental rights are also being ignored and abused in our state. That needs to be corrected but it shouldn't require a task force. If you are going to have a task force you should include people like Bishop Larry Silva of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Honolulu. He represents many people in our state whose concerns should be accommodated in any future state-wide policy.

Do not pass this SB944. Vote NO.

SB-944

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:00:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/9/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Shorba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not pass SB944. No task force should be given the authority to enforce their views on parenting and family upon the entire state of Hawaii. Hawaii residents should have a voice and be heard on this important matter, since this concerns us all on a personal level.

Any changes to our Hawaii Revised Statutes that impact parental rights and our views on family are serious enough to be put on a ballot for a vote by all Hawaii residents. Allow the people of Hawaii to vote on this issue.

Please do not pass SB944.

Mahalo for hearing my testimony.

Aloha,

Lisa Shorba

Resident of Honolulu

SB-944

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 10:24:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/9/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doreen Akamine	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been an active board member of the Adoption Circle of Hawaii for over 24 years and have raised two adopted children. I strongly urge that the task force members include a representative of those affected who can personally understand and appreciate the complex issues surrounding "parentage" including but not limited to emotions and mental health concerns, heritage and medical delimmas, legal and ethical obstacles, financial implications and more.

Elizabeth J. Samuels
Professor Emeritus
University of Baltimore School of Law
1526 Live Oak Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910
February 6, 2023

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: S.B. No. 944
Relating to the Uniform Parentage Act

Dear Chairman Rhoads and members of the committee,

I write to support and to applaud in general the plan to form a task force to study what are important and complex issues relating to the state's parentage laws.

On the basis of my decades of research as a law professor on the history and current status of adoption and assisted reproduction laws, I would also like to make two suggestions, one concerning an amendment for the membership of the task force and one concerning the mission of the task force. (Please find links below to my related research.)

In undertaking its mission, the task force should be aware of and expand upon the progress the state has already made, in its adoption laws, which now safeguard the right of adult adoptees to access information about their biological and genetic identity. The importance of this right was championed by generations of adult adoptee law reform advocates and their supportive birth and adoptive parents. A growing new generation of children who have been born by means of donated gametes -- sperm or egg or both -- seek the same right to information about their identity. The process of amending the laws that establish these individuals' parentage should address the issue of their right to information.

To ensure that the task force adequately consider the rights of the children whose parentage is established by the state's laws, the membership of the task force should be amended to include one or ideally more than one "donor conceived" individual.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth J. Samuels
Professor Emeritus, University of Baltimore School of Law

View my research on my SSRN author research page:

<http://ssrn.com/author=280573>

or at ScholarWorks:

http://scholarworks.law.ubalt.edu/do/search/?q=author_lname%3A%22Samuels%22%20AND%20author_fname%3A%22Elizabeth%22&start=0&context=6596086&sort=date_desc

SB-944

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 8:33:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/9/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Takane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With respect to SB944, as an adoptee who never was able to provide any input into the adoption laws that kept me from my own heritage, genealogy, genetic health history and any other vital information about myself, it is imperative that individuals who are donor conceived to be a part of this task force. It is their rights that are at the center of what is being discussed. Any results from such a task force will be subject to controversy if there isn't anyone who has been directly (aka the children) impacted by donor conceived parentage issues.

I support a task force rather than just changing the laws without due diligence. One must first understand the complexity of donor conception and all the consequences that go along with them, especially those that directly impact the children who are conceived.