



Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus Commission



Advocating for the Hawai'i LGBTQIA+ Community

Mailing Address: LGBTQ+ Commission, c/o The Department of Human Services,
P.O. Box 339, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809-0339

Email: hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com
Web: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtq-commission/>

February 7, 2026

House's Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 2:00 PM

RE: Strong Support for House Bill 1876 with requested amendments

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and fellow committee members,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1876 on behalf of the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission, which was established by the 2022 Hawai'i State Legislature 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.”

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission submits this testimony in strong support of House Bill 1876, which amends Hawai'i's existing prohibition on so-called “conversion therapy” by extending protections to persons of all ages and prohibiting the advertisement of such practices. The Commission recognizes the bill's clarification that talk therapy consisting of pure speech is not prohibited should Hawai'i's current ban be struck down by a negative outcome in *Chiles v. Salazar* that is currently before the US Supreme Court. However, we respectfully urge the Legislature to remove the contingency tying the effective date of the all-ages prohibition to the outcome of *Chiles v. Salazar*, as conversion therapy is not therapy and is dangerous regardless of federal litigation outcomes.

Definition of Conversion Therapy

So-called “conversion therapy” refers to any practice, treatment, or sustained effort that seeks to change, suppress, or eliminate a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, or to enforce rigid gender norms. These practices may be framed as counseling, spiritual guidance, behavioral modification, or “reparative” treatment, but they share a common goal: to deny the legitimacy of LGBTQIA+ identities and coerce individuals into conformity.

Conversion therapy is not grounded in evidence-based medicine or behavioral health practices. It is rejected by every major medical, mental health, and child welfare organization in the United States, including the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Conversion Therapy Is Not Therapy

Proudly established pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 369, as enacted through Act 41, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022

HI State LGBTQ+ Commission Testimony in Support of HB 1876

The Commission strongly affirms that conversion therapy does not meet the standard of care. It is not therapeutic, not rehabilitative, and not benign. Research consistently demonstrates that exposure to conversion therapy is associated with increased rates of depression, anxiety, substance misuse, self-harm, and suicidality. These harms do not disappear at age eighteen. Adults subjected to conversion therapy experience the same trauma, coercion, and lasting psychological injury as minors.

The argument that adults should be left unprotected ignores the realities of power imbalances, cultural pressure, familial coercion, religious manipulation, and misinformation that often drive individuals into these practices. Consent obtained under shame, fear, or false claims of “treatment” is not meaningful consent.

The Importance of an All-Ages Prohibition

HB 1876 takes an important step by recognizing that protection from conversion therapy should extend to people of all ages. However, the Commission is deeply concerned that tying the effective date of this protection to the overturning of *Chiles v. Salazar* undermines Hawai'i's longstanding commitment to health, safety, and human dignity.

Hawai'i has both the authority and the responsibility to regulate harmful professional conduct within the state. Conversion therapy's danger does not hinge on the outcome of a single federal case. Allowing the continuation or advertisement of these practices while litigation unfolds places LGBTQ+ residents at continued risk.

Why This Fight Has Taken Eight Years

Advocates such as our own Vice Chair Michael Golojuch, Jr. fought for more than eight years to ban conversion therapy in Hawai'i because they have witnessed firsthand the harm it causes. This fight has always been about protecting lives, not politics. Survivors of conversion therapy have shared stories of lasting trauma, family rejection, spiritual abuse, and years of recovery from practices falsely marketed as care.

The initial prohibition on conversion therapy for minors was a critical first step, but advocates have long understood that partial protections leave too many people behind. HB 1876 reflects years of education, coalition-building, and survivor testimony, and it brings Hawai'i closer to a policy that fully aligns with science, compassion, and justice.

Conclusion

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission strongly supports House Bill 1876 and urges the Legislature to amend the bill so that the prohibition on conversion therapy for all ages takes effect regardless of the outcome of *Chiles v. Salazar*. Conversion therapy is not therapy. It is dangerous, deceptive, and fundamentally incompatible with accepted standards of care.

Hawai'i has an opportunity to lead once again by affirming that all people, regardless of age, deserve protection from harmful practices masquerading as treatment. We respectfully ask for your favorable consideration of this measure, with the recommended amendment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

If you or any member of your staff has any questions regarding my testimony you can reach me at hawaiiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com.

HI State LGBTQ+ Commission Testimony in Support of HB 1876

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Sandy Harjo Livingston, PhD (he/him/they/them)

Chair

[Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission](#)

[Inclusive LGBTQIA+ Glossary](#)

<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtqiaplus-glossary/>

This webpage is dedicated to understanding and being able to use the correct terms when talking about the rainbow community from mähū to LGBTQIA+ to QTPI+ to MVPFAFF+ and beyond. The list found on this page is not an exhaustive list and will be updated as appropriate.



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1876
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH**

REPRESENTATIVE SCOT MATAYOSHI, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE TINA NAKADA GRANDINETTI, VICE CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 2:00 p.m. Room Number: 329 & Video

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined.

2 **Department Position:** The Department supports this measure and offers comments.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Adult Mental Health Division offers the following on behalf of the
4 Department.

5 HB1876 amends HRS §453J-1 with language that will take effect upon the United States
6 Supreme Court overturning the decision in Chiles v. Salazar, No. 24-539 (U.S.).

7 This bill removes the age threshold for prohibiting or advertising Conversion Therapy
8 and clarifies that Conversion Therapy is exclusively a form of treatment that includes aversive
9 techniques (defined in HB1876 explicitly as techniques that utilize unpleasant stimuli to induce
10 changes in behavior). It also clarifies that Conversion Therapy is not talk therapy in the form of
11 pure speech.

12 The Department agrees that there is no credible scientific or medical evidence that
13 Conversion Therapy works to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. The
14 consensus of every major medical, psychiatric, and psychological association rejects Conversion
15 Therapy and finds it ineffective and potentially harmful, including the American Psychological
16 Association (<https://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/therapeutic-response.pdf>), the American

1 Medical Association ([https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/conversion-therapy-issue-](https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/conversion-therapy-issue-brief.pdf)
2 [brief.pdf](https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/conversion-therapy-issue-brief.pdf)), the American Academy of Pediatrics (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2018-2162>), and
3 the American Psychiatric Association ([https://www.psychiatry.org/getattachment/3d23f2f4-](https://www.psychiatry.org/getattachment/3d23f2f4-1497-4537-b4de-fe32fe8761bf/Position-Conversion-Therapy.pdf)
4 [1497-4537-b4de-fe32fe8761bf/Position-Conversion-Therapy.pdf](https://www.psychiatry.org/getattachment/3d23f2f4-1497-4537-b4de-fe32fe8761bf/Position-Conversion-Therapy.pdf)). As noted in HB1876, the use
5 of Conversion Therapy has been shown in research to be consistently linked with negative
6 physical and mental health outcomes, including depression, anxiety, substance use, self-harm,
7 and suicidality.

8 The Department supports HB1876, as Hawaii laws must accurately reflect constitutional
9 rulings by the Supreme Court. The Department remains against the use of potentially harmful
10 treatment modalities that are not evidence-based or supported by scientific and medical
11 research.

12 **Offered Amendments:** None.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HA‘AHEO, ‘OHANA, KAULIKE, UI
Pride Family Justice Activate
WHERE PRIDE BECOMES POLITICAL POWER

Website: www.hokupac.org ♦ Email: info@hokupac.org

February 6, 2026

House’s Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Hawai’i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 2:00 PM

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for House Bill 1876 – Relating to RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and fellow committee members,

This testimony on behalf of **HOKU PAC**, Hawai’i’s māhū, LGBTQIA+ political action committee dedicated to building queer political power and advancing policies that protect our communities. We write in **strong support of House Bill 1876**.

HOKU PAC submits this testimony in strong support of House Bill 1876, which strengthens Hawai’i’s prohibition on so-called “conversion therapy” by extending protections to people of all ages and prohibiting the advertisement of these harmful practices. This bill is a necessary and overdue step to ensure that LGBTQ+ people in Hawai’i are protected from abuse masquerading as care.

Conversion Therapy Is Political Harm Disguised as Treatment

Conversion therapy is not a neutral or faith-based practice, it is a political tool rooted in the belief that queer people are broken, immoral, or in need of correction. These practices are designed to erase identities, suppress self-expression, and enforce conformity through shame and coercion. They are frequently marketed as counseling or personal development, but their purpose is ideological, not therapeutic.

Allowing conversion therapy to persist, especially for adults, legitimizes a narrative that queer identities are optional, reversible, or defective. That narrative fuels discrimination in housing, employment, healthcare, and public life. For HOKU PAC, this is not just a health issue; it is a civil rights issue.

Adults Deserve Protection, Too

HOKU PAC strongly supports the extension of the prohibition on conversion therapy to people of all ages. The idea that harm suddenly becomes acceptable at age eighteen ignores the realities of power, pressure, and vulnerability faced by māhū, and LGBTQIA+ adults. Many are coerced into conversion therapy by families, employers, religious institutions, or community leaders. Others are targeted during moments of crisis, isolation, or fear.

Paid for by HOKU PAC – Not Authorized by any Candidate or Candidate Committee

**HOKU PAC Testimony in support of HB 1876:
RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH**

Consent obtained through stigma, misinformation, or threat of rejection is not meaningful consent. Hawai'i must reject the false premise that adults do not deserve protection from practices that are known to cause harm.

So Called “Conversion Therapy” Fails Every Standard of Care

So called “conversion therapy” does not meet any recognized professional standard of care. It is rejected by every major medical and mental health association in the United States. Survivors report lasting psychological trauma, increased risk of depression and suicidality, and deep mistrust of healthcare systems. These outcomes are not incidental—they are the predictable result of a practice built on the denial of a person’s identity.

HOKU PAC appreciates that House Bill 1876 explicitly exempts talk therapy consisting of pure speech. This clarification should ensure that legitimate counseling, support, and exploration of identity remain protected while drawing a clear line against harmful conduct falsely labeled as therapy.

Remove the Contingency - Protect People Now

HOKU PAC is deeply concerned by the provision tying the all-ages prohibition to the outcome of *Chiles v. Salazar*. The danger of conversion therapy does not depend on the outcome of federal litigation. Hawai'i has the authority to regulate professional conduct and to protect residents from demonstrably harmful practices now.

Delaying or conditioning protections sends the wrong message to māhū, LGBTQIA+, QTPI+ and indigiqueer people: that their safety is negotiable or secondary to political uncertainty. At a time when LGBTQ+ communities are facing escalating attacks nationwide, Hawai'i must act decisively.

Deduction

House Bill 1876 affirms a simple truth: LGBTQ+ people are not broken and do not need to be fixed. HOKU PAC urges the Legislature to pass this measure and to ensure that the prohibition on conversion therapy for all ages takes effect without delay or contingency. Hawai'i has the opportunity to lead with courage, clarity, and compassion—and to reject conversion therapy once and for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



February 6, 2026

House's Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 2:00 PM

RE: **STRONG SUPPRT for House Bill 1876**

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chairs Grandinetti, 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. We write in **strong support of House Bill 1876**.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i proudly submits testimony in strong support of House Bill 1876, which strengthens Hawai'i's existing prohibition on so-called "conversion therapy" by extending protections to people of all ages and prohibiting the advertisement of these harmful practices.

Pride at Work supported Hawai'i's original ban on the so-called "conversion therapy" for minors, recognizing early on that these practices cause real and lasting harm to mähū, LGBTQIA+, QTPI+ people, their families, and the communities in which they live and work. We wish to acknowledge that the lead advocate organization in that effort was the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, whose sustained leadership, coalition-building, and survivor-centered advocacy made the original prohibition possible. That victory was the result of broad community support, including labor, healthcare professionals, parents, and LGBTQIA+ advocates across the state.

Conversion Therapy Harms Workers and Workplaces

From a labor perspective, conversion therapy is not only a public health issue, it is a worker dignity issue. Mähū, LGBTQIA+ and QTPI+ workers who are subjected to so-called "conversion therapy" experience higher rates of anxiety, depression, and trauma, which directly impact their ability to participate fully and safely in the workforce. Many are coerced into these practices by family, religious institutions, or employers who frame so-called "conversion therapy" as a condition for acceptance, stability, or continued employment.

These harms do not end at age eighteen. Adults, including working adults, are frequently targeted by so-called "conversion therapy" providers who falsely market their services as legitimate counseling or professional care. Allowing these practices to continue places mähū, LGBTQIA+ and QTPI+ workers at increased risk of exploitation, stigma, and long-term harm.

“Conversion Therapy” Is Not THERAPY

House Bill 1876 correctly affirms that so-called “conversion therapy” is not a legitimate form of treatment. It does not meet professional standards of care and has been unequivocally rejected by all major medical and mental health associations. These practices are rooted in the false premise that queer identities are disordered or defective—an idea that directly undermines workplace inclusion, equal opportunity, and basic human dignity.

We acknowledge the bill's explicit clarification that talk therapy consisting of pure speech is not prohibited. At the same time, we emphasize that conversion therapy, regardless of how it is branded or advertised, is a harmful practice that should not be permitted or promoted in Hawai'i.

Protecting People of All Ages

Pride at Work – Hawai'i strongly supports the extension of the prohibition to people of all ages. Workers deserve protection from dangerous and deceptive practices, regardless of their age or employment status. No one should be subjected to psychological harm under the guise of “therapy” in order to keep a job, maintain family support, or remain housed.

We respectfully urge the Legislature to ensure that the all-ages prohibition is not delayed or weakened by external litigation. Hawai'i has a proud history of leading with compassion and evidence-based policy, and this bill is an opportunity to reaffirm that commitment.

In Closing

Pride at Work – Hawai'i stands in strong support of House Bill 1876. We honor the leadership of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i in securing the original ban and applaud the Legislature for taking the next necessary step to protect all people from conversion therapy. We respectfully request your favorable consideration of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

In Solidarity,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)
President
[Pride at Work – Hawai'i](#)



FEBRUARY 10, 2026

HOUSE BILL 1876

CURRENT REFERRAL: CPC

808-679-7454
kris@imuaalliance.org
www.imuaalliance.org
@imuaalliance

Kris Coffield,
President

David Negaard,
Director

Mireille Ellsworth,
Director

Justin Salisbury,
Director

Eileen Roco,
Director

Beatrice DeRego,
Director

Corey Rosenlee,
Director

Amy Zhao,
*Policy and Partnerships
Strategist*

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports HB 1876, relating to mental health, which amends the existing prohibition on conversion therapy by prohibiting the practice on persons of all ages and the advertisement of such practice; explicitly provides that talk therapy in the form of pure speech is exempt from the prohibition on conversion therapy; takes effect upon the certification by the Attorney General that the Supreme Court of the United States has overturned the holding in *Chiles v. Salazar*, 116 F.4th 1178 (10th Cir. 2024).

Imua Alliance is a Hawai'i-based organization dedicated to ending sexual exploitation and gender violence, and combating all forms of systemic exploitation in our society.

Conversion therapy is a harmful and discredited practice. The legislation before you defines "conversion therapy" as any practice or treatment that seeks to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, including attempts to change behaviors, gender expression, romantic attraction, or feelings, whether through aversive or non-aversive techniques.

Professional health authorities reject conversion therapy. Every major U.S. medical and mental health association agrees that conversion therapy is both ineffective and harmful. **Practices aimed at changing sexual orientation or gender identity are based on outdated notions that LGBTQ+ identities are pathological, when in fact they are normal variations of human experience.** These practices are broadly condemned by organizations including the American Psychological Association and American Academy of Pediatrics.

Conversion therapy inflicts serious psychological harm. According to states tracking conversion therapy bans, individuals subjected to conversion efforts face significantly increased risks of depression, anxiety, internalized

stigma, social isolation, and suicidality. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and multiple peer-reviewed studies have found that LGBTQ+ people who experience conversion practices are significantly more likely to report suicidal thoughts and attempts, and long-term emotional injury. National advocacy groups document elevated rates of mental health challenges among those exposed to these discredited techniques.

Hawai'i has a strong history of protecting youth from conversion therapy. In 2018, Hawai'i became one of the first states to ban conversion therapy for LGBTQ+ minors. That law prohibited licensed professionals from offering "sexual orientation change efforts" to patients under age 18, joining a growing wave of state protections against this harmful practice.

This proposal builds on that foundation by extending the statutory ban, clarifying definitions, and reaffirming that conversion therapy has no place in modern health care, mental health practice, or therapeutic settings. By doing so, it promotes evidence-based care for all residents, including LGBTQ+ youth and adults, while ensuring that therapeutic support remains focused on acceptance, coping skills, and resilience, rather than futile attempts at changing one's inherent identity.

Passing this measure also aligns Hawai'i with the 20+ states that have adopted similar protections, reinforcing the state's commitment to health, human dignity, and inclusive communities.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance



Submitted Online: February 9, 2026

TO: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Rep. Scot Matayoshi, Chair
Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

RE: Opposition to HB 1876 Relating to Mental Health

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawai‘i. We respectfully submit testimony in opposition to HB 1876.

Hawaii Family Forum recognizes that this bill is intended to respond to anticipated guidance from the United States Supreme Court regarding the regulation of professional speech in counseling settings. The Legislature appears to be attempting to preserve existing prohibitions on coercive or aversive practices while adjusting statutory language to address potential constitutional concerns. However, correcting or expanding a law in advance of a final Supreme Court decision is neither prudent nor necessary, particularly when the scope, reasoning, and limits of the Court’s ruling are still unknown. Legislating in anticipation of a decision that has not yet been issued risks overcorrection, unintended consequences, and future legal conflict.

Substantively, this bill raises serious concerns beyond the procedural issue. HB 1876 expands the original 2018 law—previously focused on minors—to apply to adults, thereby limiting the ability of individuals to voluntarily seek counseling consistent with their deeply held personal, moral, or religious beliefs. Adults should retain the freedom to pursue counseling goals of their own choosing, without fear that licensed professionals will be penalized for engaging in client-directed conversations. The bill’s broad definitions and reliance on subjective interpretations place counselors at risk of disciplinary action for speech alone, creating a chilling effect even where no coercion or harm is present.

Additionally, the bill’s legislative findings embed one-sided assumptions regarding faith-based counseling, portraying religiously motivated therapeutic approaches as inherently harmful. This framing marginalizes people of faith and undermines the legitimacy of counseling that respects religious convictions, despite the fact that many individuals seek such counseling precisely to remain aligned with their beliefs and values.

For these reasons, Hawaii Family Forum urges the Legislature to exercise restraint. Until the Supreme Court has issued a final ruling clarifying the constitutional boundaries at issue, it would be more responsible to pause rather than enact sweeping statutory changes that expand government involvement in deeply personal counseling relationships. We respectfully ask the Committee to oppose HB 1876. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:54:32 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
HSDWC	Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti and members,

The Caucus is in strong support of this bill. This heinous practice which is akin to female genital mutilation and foot binding, has been the cause of lasting trauma and too often - suicide.

It is at it's core a form of torture and a human rights violation.

Please protect our Transgender Community,

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed, Co-Chair HSDWC



LATE

LAMBDA LAW HAWAI'I
WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF [HB1876](#)

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
February 26th, 2025

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committees,

Lambda Law Hawai'i, a Law Student Association at the William S. Richardson School of Law, at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, **strongly supports HB1876**. This bill provides for the conditional amendment of the existing prohibition on conversion therapy, which shall take effect only upon a final decision by the Supreme Court of the United States overturning the decision in *Chiles v. Salazar*, 116 F.4th 1178 (10th Cir. 2024).

We as queer law students understand the importance of protecting youth and others who may face familial or social pressures to undergo **conversion “therapy,” which is widely understood to be a form of torture, and should absolutely be prohibited in Hawai'i** no matter what the Supreme Court of the U.S. might rule. This bill is a vital part of fulfilling our collective kuleana to protect MVPFAFF+ and LGBTQ+ youth.

Please support HB1876. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Lambda Law Hawai'i, a Law Student Association at the William S. Richardson School of Law
Mission: To advance equal rights for LGBTQIA+ individuals at WSRSL and beyond.

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 4:27:12 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1876. With all the unknown and unfortunate decisions by the executive and judicial branches of the federal government. We need to do what we can to protect all those who reside in Hawai'i. Please pass the protective bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 5:28:46 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard S Velasquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

conversion therapy has been discounted niall professional associations

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 11:47:23 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Steinbacher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the Kaua‘i representative to the Hawai‘i LGBTQ+ Advisory Commission, I am writing in strong support of HB1876 which amends the existing prohibition on “conversion therapy” by prohibiting the practice on persons of all ages and the advertisement of such practice. “Conversion therapy” is a pseudoscientific practice of attempting to change an individual's sexual orientation, romantic orientation, gender identity, or gender expression to align with heterosexual and cisgender norms. Its practice is ineffective at changing a person's sexual orientation or gender identity and frequently causes significant long-term psychological harm. Medical professionals consider "conversion therapy" a misnomer, as it does not constitute a legitimate form of therapy. I urge your support of this critical and compassionate legislation.

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:56:01 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maris Leonhardy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a citize, constiruent and memeber of the LGBTQIA+ community I support this bill. We have found time and again the conversion tharapy does not work to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. The experiences of former patients of conversion therapy repeatedly show us that conversion therapy is not effectual and instead leads to long term mental harm as a person is repeatedly told that they are not good enought or "right" as they are. Mahalo

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 5:52:15 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aria Juliet Castillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"Conversion therapy" is incredibly harmful and causes lasting trauma, with survivors reporting long-term feelings of guilt, self-hatred, and isolation. There is no proven method that these tactics make any change to their sexual orientation or gender identity. The harm is profound and well-documented: LGBTQIA+ youth who have been subjected to conversion therapy are more than twice as likely to report having attempted suicide. This practice is dangerous and has no place in Hawai'i.

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 9:00:46 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Sheeran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To

[COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE](#)

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair, and

Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair,

I strongly support HR 1876 and urge you and members of the committee to vote YES.

Conversion therapy has been widely discredited and known to harm many individuals forced to undergo it. Please don't let it get a foothold here in the Hawaiian Islands where our tradition of tolerance and acceptance of Mahu as a valued part of society is long established.

Mahalo

Tom Sheeran

Mo'ili'ili

7 February 2026

The Honorable Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

HB1876 Support for The Prohibition of Conversion Therapy

Dear Chair Matayoshi,

I am Teya Nakashima, a resident of Hawai'i and an MSW student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am writing to provide testimony in strong support of HB1876, which would amend Hawai'i's existing prohibition on conversion therapy by extending the ban to individuals of all ages and prohibiting the advertisement of such practices, while explicitly protecting legitimate talk therapy.

Conversion therapy is not an evidence-based practice and has been consistently rejected by major medical and mental health organizations due to its association with psychological harm, including increased rates of depression, anxiety, shame, and suicidality. As a social work student, I believe it is critical that mental health services in Hawai'i prioritize client safety, dignity, and ethical standards of care.

HB1876 appropriately distinguishes between harmful practices aimed at changing a person's sexual orientation or gender identity and ethical, client-centered talk therapy that allows individuals to explore their identity, values, and experiences without coercion or predetermined outcomes. This clarification is essential to protecting both clients and clinicians, and it ensures that supportive and exploratory therapeutic work remains fully permissible.

By strengthening protections against conversion therapy while respecting free speech and professional practice, HB1876 aligns with the core values of social work, including respect for the dignity and worth of the person, self-determination, and the obligation to do no harm. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support HB1876.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Teya Nakashima

Email: teyanaka@hawaii.edu

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 9:40:27 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa K Zepeda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear members of committe CPC,

I am writing to support the ammendment prohibiting conversion therapy on persons of all ages and the advertisement of such practice. As a scientist, I am deeply concerned about this pseudo science still being in practice. Talk therapy is more cited as a sucesscul form of mental heathl care than conversion therapy. Conversion therapy is archaic and to be blunt, is an absolte form of abuse. I urge the committe so support the passing of HB1876. Thank you for your time and for reading my testimony.

With aloha,

Dr. Vanessa K. Zepeda

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:36:40 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Storm Stoker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This failed practice:

Causes lasting trauma: Survivors often report long-term feelings of guilt, self-hatred, and isolation, rather than any change in their sexual orientation or gender identity

Twice as Likely to Attempt Suicide: LGBTQIA+ youth who have been subjected to so-called conversion therapy are more than twice as likely to report having attempted suicide.

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:02:15 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanda Brack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shanda Brack; I am a nurse practitioner in Hawai‘i. I am writing in strong support of HB1876.

I am vehemently opposed to conversion therapy. As a healthcare provider, I am familiar with the extensive body of research and the overwhelming professional consensus that “conversion therapy” is not only ineffective but harmful.

Good parents want to protect their children from a difficult or painful life. Some may sincerely believe that “conversion therapy” is a way to help their child avoid discrimination, hardship, or suffering. That desire to protect comes from love. However, good intentions do not change the reality that “conversion therapy” simply does not work and instead causes real, measurable harm.

Most people don’t know what “conversion therapy” actually entails. In many cases, it is clearly abuse. I have spoken with people whose experience with it was being forced to engage in bizarre sexual acts dictated by the “therapist” combined with sadistic physical punishment. Medical literature indicates this is not uncommon. “Conversion therapy” is neither therapy nor healthcare.

Many LGBTQ+ individuals — including adults — have voluntarily (or under duress) undergone “conversion therapy” to try to conform to societal expectations, to fit in, and to be accepted by family, faith communities, or society at large. The evidence is clear: these efforts do not change sexual orientation or gender identity. My friend Mike, for example, tried “conversion therapy” because he loved God so much and he wanted to do what was right. It didn’t change him, and now he is filled with self-hate and shame.

An often-used analogy is forcing left-handed people to use their right hand. They may learn to conceal who they are in order to fit in, but they never become right-handed. Similarly, “conversion therapy” may force people to act straight or pretend they’re not trans, but it does not change who they are. It only teaches shame and self-rejection.

In the absence of any evidence that “conversion therapy” leads to real change, what remains is not treatment, but punishment. It is hurting people for being different. That is not healthcare; it is coercion and harms our community.

“Conversion therapy” is associated with increased rates of depression, anxiety, shame, internalized stigma, substance use, and suicidality. It teaches people that their core self is broken and needs to be fixed. As a clinician, I find that message deeply damaging and fundamentally incompatible with ethical, evidence-based healthcare.

Every major medical and mental health organization in the United States — including the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Psychiatric Association, and American Psychological Association — opposes “conversion therapy” because of the harm it causes and the lack of any demonstrated benefit.

Finally, in a 2022 article in JAMA Pediatrics, Forsythe and colleagues analyzed the economic impact of conversion therapy. They found that affirmative therapy (helping people accept themselves) led to cost savings and improved quality of life. They state, “There are already multiple, unambiguous statements from professional societies and human rights groups on the imperative to stop SOGICE because of its discriminatory nature and profoundly harmful effects.... With an estimated 508,892 youths at risk for [conversion therapy] in 2021, the total annual cost of [conversion therapy] is estimated at \$650.16 million (2021 US dollars), with **associated harms totaling an economic burden of \$9.23 billion.**” They conclude with “It is incumbent on policy makers to act to protect youths from—and stop all funding for—this unacceptable practice. Likewise, increasing access to affirmative therapy may promote health by empowering LGBTQ youths with skills and strategies to counteract minority stress.” (Forsythe A, Pick C, Tremblay G, Malaviya S, Green A, Sandman K. Humanistic and Economic Burden of Conversion Therapy Among LGBTQ Youths in the United States. JAMA Pediatr. 2022;176(5):493–501. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2022.0042)

To summarize: conversion therapy does not work. It harms youth, adults, and the rest of us. It promotes intolerance, judgment, and discrimination. And finally, it is financially costly to society.

HB1876 appropriately strengthens protections against this harmful practice while maintaining space for supportive, ethical, patient-centered counseling. Affirming care is not about pushing an agenda — it is about reducing harm, supporting mental health, and helping people thrive as their authentic selves.

This bill protects patients, supports evidence-based practice, and upholds the standards of care that healthcare professionals are ethically bound to follow. I urge you to pass HB1876 and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in protecting the mental health and well-being of our communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HB1876. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like more medical evidence.

Respectfully,

Shanda Brack, APRN

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:32:48 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
uma nagendra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha committee members,

I am writing in support of HB1876. "Conversion therapy" has been shown to be actively harmful, and has no place in a legitimate mental health care system. Hawai'i must remain a supportive place for young people of all genders and sexualities.

MICHAEL J. GOLOJUCH, JR. (he/him)

Civil Rights Activist

February 6, 2026

House's Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 2:00 PM

RE: STRONG SUPPRT for House Bill 1876 with Requested Amendments

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chairs Grandinetti, and fellow committee members,

My name is Michael Golojuch, Jr., and I am submitting testimony in **strong support of House Bill 1876, with requested amendments.**

I fully appreciate the intent behind this bill to strengthen Hawai'i's existing prohibition on so-called conversion therapy by extending protections to people of all ages and by defining "aversive techniques" to help spotlight how dangerous this discredited practice actually is. These are critical and necessary steps, and I thank the Legislature for continuing to stand on the right side of history.

I was the lead advocate in Hawai'i to ban conversion therapy for minors, an effort that took eight long years to achieve. During that time, I became deeply familiar, both professionally and personally, with the realities of this horrific practice. I listened to survivor after survivor recount stories of profound trauma, shame, isolation, and lasting psychological harm. Many spoke openly about suicidal ideation, self-hatred, and lifelong emotional scars caused directly by being told that who they are is broken, sinful, or in need of "fixing."

There is nothing therapeutic about the so-called conversion therapy. It is **barbaric, bigotry-based, and universally condemned** by every major medical and mental health association in this country.

While I support HB 1876, I respectfully request the following amendments:

First, I strongly urge the Legislature to **remove the carve-out for so-called "talk therapy."** Any form of this so-called conversion therapy - regardless of whether it is physical, behavioral, or framed as "pure speech" - is inherently dangerous. The harm does not come from the method alone; it comes from the message. Telling someone that their sexual orientation or gender identity is wrong or disordered fuels trauma, depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. **There is no version of this so-called conversion therapy that is safe, ethical, or supported by science.**

Second, I urge the Legislature to **remove the trigger language tied to the outcome of *Chiles v. Salazar*.** While I understand the caution behind this provision, we have no way of knowing what the United States Supreme Court will ultimately decide. Hawai'i should not delay or weaken protections for our communities based on uncertainty at the federal level. More importantly, tying this bill to future court action risks sending the dangerous message that some

Michael Golojuch, Jr.'s (he/him) Testimony for HB 1876: RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH

forms of conversion therapy may be acceptable under certain legal conditions. That is simply not true.

Itemized Requested Amendments:

1. Delete the last two (2) paragraphs found in Section 1 – Lines 17- 21 on Page 2, and Lines 1 – 9 on Page 3.
2. Revert to the original HRS language found on Page 5 – Lines 1 – 3
3. Amend Section 4 to remove the trigger language and have the bill take effect upon approval.

At the same time, I want to be very clear: **we must not lose the most important parts of this bill.** HB 1876 must continue to:

- Ban so-called conversion therapy for **people of all ages**, and
- Defining – “aversive techniques”

Hawai'i has long been a leader in protecting LGBTQIA+ people. This bill is an opportunity to reaffirm that leadership by making it unequivocally clear that conversion therapy - in any form, for anyone - is not welcome in our state, the Aloha State.

I respectfully ask the Committee to advance HB 1876 with the requested amendments and to continue standing with survivors, families, and communities who deserve dignity, safety, and care rooted in science and compassion - not shame. Save the shame for those that support this barbaric, inhumane, and disavowed practice.

Should you have any questions regarding my testimony please do not hesitate in contacting me or asking me any question during the hearing.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

I Mua,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)
Civil Rights Activist

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:53:21 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Schauben	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been part of, volunteered in, and worked with the LGBTQ community for many decades. Research demonstrates that conversion therapy in any form is dangerous. In contrast, one caring adult that accepts a youth as being LGBTQ reduces their likelihood of suicide by 50%. Please disallow any form of conversion therapy and support gender affirming care.

Please note

- NO ONE should be tortured by the harmful practice of conversion therapy.
- It causes lasting trauma: Survivors often report long-term feelings of guilt, self-hatred, and isolation, rather than any change in their sexual orientation or gender identity
- LGBTQIA+ youth who have been subjected to so-called conversion therapy are more than twice as likely to report having attempted suicide.

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 1:25:22 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Ramirez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice chair, and committee members,

Thank you for taking time to char this very important bill. This bill will add language to an already existing law to enhance the prohibition of conversion therpay to all ages, which i thought was already in place! Medical literature is really quite clear regarding this, and almost every state has banned this type of of torture to children. Please allow this bill to apss to not allow this type of therapy to be conducted on anyone.

Mahalo

Rick Ramirez DNP, APRN AGACNP, FNP

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 2:00:05 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Ogata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB1876 as an individual who believes our laws should protect people from harm, especially when that harm is inflicted under the guise of care.

HB1876 strengthens Hawai'i's existing protections by making it clear that conversion practices, which attempt to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, have no place in our communities. These practices have caused real harm to countless people, including long-lasting damage to mental health, self-worth, and family relationships. They are not healing, and they are not care.

No one should be told that who they are is something that needs to be fixed. For LGBTQIA+ people, especially young people and those in vulnerable situations, conversion practices can deepen feelings of shame, fear, and isolation. Many carry the effects of these experiences for years.

This bill is about drawing a clear line. It says that Hawai'i will not allow practices that undermine a person's dignity or mental well-being, and it will not allow those practices to be promoted or normalized. HB1876 affirms that support, affirmation, and evidence-based care are what truly help people thrive.

Passing this measure is a meaningful step toward protecting mental health and upholding the values of compassion, respect, and care that Hawai'i stands for.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support HB1876.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share my testimony.

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 2:21:26 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy Prellberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the passing of HB1876 that further protects all ages of people that receive therapeutic treatment. I believe everyone should be protected from the potential negative physical, emotional, and mental affects of conversion therapy, even through speech. There are historical, political, and social reasons that conversion therapy is banned in the first place, which puts heavy emphasis on the physical affects, however law and policy should further this movement to reflect the complexity of the experiences of peoples receiving therapies under the law.

If not to protect people of all ages, then at least to continue to facilitate community discourse on the subject. With as many diverse communities in Hawai'i that we have, we need to hear, and greatly consider, the voices of the population potentially in harms way of these therapies.

Stacy Prellberg

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:52:37 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Ritch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I adamantly support this bill to restrict the use of pseudopsychological methods to forcibly change an individual's healthy sexuality. I have personally been subjected to conversion talk-therapy as a teenager, and I spent the next several years hiding with even more shame, which negatively affected my relationships with my family, friends, and myself. My teenage years were filled with the fear that I could be kicked out on the street or financially destitute if my sexuality were discovered again. And yet, I was lucky. I personally did not fall into the mental anguish that so many others are subjected to.

Conversion therapy seeks to impart religious-based shame and disgust onto an otherwise healthy individual. No one should be tortured by this unscientific and failed practice. Other survivors report long-term feelings of guilt, self-hatred, and isolation, rather than any change in their sexual orientation or gender identity. LGBTQIA+ youth who have been subjected to so-called conversion therapy are more than twice as likely to report having attempted suicide.

It is critical to the health and safety of our state to restrict the antisocial practices of forcing individuals into unhealthy, unnecessary treatments. Such practices should be banned for all ages, as mental health and guilt do not end at the age of majority, and advertisement should be strictly banned, as it pushes the false narrative that minority sexualities are pathologies requiring treatment.

I strongly support HB 1876 and urge the legislature to pass this bill and amend the current laws to further protect our citizens.

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:48:06 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dandré Richards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rep Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair

Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Bill HB 1876

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

2:00 pm, Conference Room 329, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

IN SUPPORT

Aloha, I'm Dandre Richards a Chinatown resident. I am testifying in favor of HB 1876.

Citizens of all ages should be free to live authentically. They should not be restricted nor conformed through gender norms and reactionary forces. We are all unique individuals and no individuals existence should not serve as offense to any individual or group. Otherwise we risk losing that individual or groups perspective from the greater community of Hawai'i.

i want to emphasize the necessity of divergent and sometimes random manners of sentience. Such variety is what makes our world and our communities rich, providing a fulfilling experience worth engaging with.

I am in support of moving forward with HB 1876. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Dandre Richards

808 462 0099

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:56:47 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Paul	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Committee Members,

I am writing in **strong support** of HB 1876.

The American Psychological Association defines [conversion therapy](#) as follows:

““Conversion therapy” refers to attempts to change a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity, or related behaviors. Sometimes called “reparative” or “reorientation” therapy, these practices stem from the scientifically discredited belief that being LGBTQ+ is a mental illness that should be cured.

APA uses the terms “sexual orientation change efforts” (SOCE) and “gender identity change efforts” (GICE). These practices are **not evidence-based therapy.**”

Any person advertising this discredited practice is engaging in fraud. Conversion therapy is dangerous. Several decades of research has shown that it can be harmful, and that it **is NOT effective.**

People who struggle with their sexual orientation or gender identity should seek out mental healthcare if that is something they desire, but no counselor or clinician should be allowed to promise something that they cannot do, namely change another persons sexual orientation or gender identity. To do so is malpractice on the part of the care provider.

Mahalo for your time,

Michael Paul House District 27

LATE

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:20:28 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joe Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi and Committee Members,

I submit this testimony in support of **HB1876**, which would amend Hawai‘i’s existing prohibition on conversion therapy by extending protections to **persons of all ages** and by **prohibiting the advertisement of conversion therapy practices**.

Hawai‘i has long recognized that so-called “conversion therapy” is not legitimate medical or mental health treatment. It is a discredited practice that seeks to change or suppress a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity, and it has been widely condemned by major medical, psychiatric, and psychological associations for causing significant harm. The state’s current law appropriately protects minors, but the harms of conversion therapy do not end at age eighteen.

Adults—including young adults, elders, and people experiencing vulnerability due to family pressure, religious coercion, trauma, or mental health stress—can be just as susceptible to coercive or misleading practices. Expanding the prohibition to cover people of all ages affirms an essential principle: **no one should be subjected to fraudulent, harmful, or abusive practices masquerading as therapy**, regardless of their age.

HB1876 also wisely addresses the **advertisement** of conversion therapy. Allowing these practices to be marketed lends them a false legitimacy and continues to expose LGBTQ+ people and their families to deceptive claims. Advertising bans are a reasonable and necessary consumer-protection measure, particularly when a practice has been shown to cause psychological distress, depression, anxiety, and increased risk of self-harm.

This bill does not restrict religious belief or personal faith. Individuals remain free to seek spiritual guidance or counseling consistent with their beliefs. What HB1876 does is ensure that licensed professionals—and those presenting services as therapeutic—are not permitted to engage in or promote practices that violate professional standards and harm public health.

By passing HB1876, Hawai‘i would reaffirm its commitment to evidence-based care, consumer protection, and the dignity and safety of LGBTQ+ residents. The state has a strong history of leadership on civil rights and health policy, and this measure is a logical and compassionate extension of that legacy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **pass HB1876**.

LATE

LATE

HB-1876

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:32:56 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/10/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Junmi Chen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee,

My name is Junmi Chen, and I strongly support House Bill 1876.

Before moving to Hawai‘i, I worked with survivors of so-called “conversion therapy” in China. I saw firsthand how clinics profited from fear and stigma, advertising “treatment” that offered no scientific basis, while subjecting people to forced hospitalization, electric shock therapy, and coercion. These practices are not therapy—they are commercial exploitation built on discrimination.

The UN Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity called conversion therapy “a form of deception, false advertising, and fraud.” Global medical organizations consistently describe it as dangerous, ineffective, and harmful. Even the German Health Minister emphasized: “Homosexuality is not a disease, and calling it a treatment is misleading.”

HB1876 matters because it stops these practices from operating as a purchasable service in Hawai‘i. It protects consumers from being exploited simply for who they are. This bill ensures Hawai‘i does not become a market for harm under the guise of care.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB1876.

Mahalo.

LATE