

## ACT 5

S.B. NO. 888

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Commission on Sexual Orientation and the Law.  
*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to form a new commission on sexual orientation and the law.

SECTION 2. Act 217, Session Laws of Hawaii 1994, section 6, is repealed.

[“SECTION 6. There is created, effective upon approval of this Act, a commission on sexual orientation and the law. The commission shall consist of eleven members, ten appointed by the governor of the State of Hawaii, of which two shall be representatives from the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission; two shall be representatives from the American Friends Service Committee; two shall be representatives from the Catholic Church diocese; two shall be representatives from the Church of Latter-Day Saints; two shall be representatives from the Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project; and an eleventh member, who shall be the chairperson of the family law section of the Hawaii State Bar Association as of January 1, 1994, who shall serve as chairperson of the commission. Should the chairperson of the family law section of the Hawaii State Bar Association decline to serve, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall choose, at their joint discretion, a person with expertise in the law of domestic relations to serve as chairperson of the commission. The members of the commission shall serve without compensation and the commission shall be attached for administrative purposes to the legislative reference bureau, which shall provide staff support to the commission. The purpose of the commission shall be to:

- (1) Examine the precise legal and economic benefits extended to opposite-sex couples, but not to same-sex couples;
- (2) Examine whether substantial public policy reasons exist to extend such benefits to same-sex couples and the reasons therefor; and
- (3) Recommend appropriate action which may be taken by the legislature to extend such benefits to same-sex couples.

## ACT 5

The commission shall submit a report on its findings to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 1995 regular session.’’]

SECTION 3. There is created, effective upon approval of this Act, a commission on sexual orientation and the law. The commission shall consist of seven members of the general public, appointed by the governor, of which two shall be appointed from a list of nominees submitted by the speaker of the house of representatives and two shall be appointed from a list of nominees submitted by the president of the senate. The governor shall designate the chair of the commission. The members of the commission shall serve without compensation and the commission shall be attached for administrative purposes to the legislative reference bureau, which shall provide staff support to the commission. The purpose of the commission shall be to:

- (1) Examine the major legal and economic benefits extended to married opposite-sex couples, but not to same-sex couples;
- (2) Examine the substantial public policy reasons to extend or not to extend such benefits in part or in total to same-sex couples; and
- (3) Recommend appropriate action which may be taken by the legislature to extend such benefits to same-sex couples.

The commission shall submit a report of its findings to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 1996 regular session. The commission shall cease to exist after July 1, 1996.’’

SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved March 24, 1995.)